

Jordan Times

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Beirut holds suspect in embassy blast

BEIRUT (R) — A local employee of the U.S. embassy in Beirut is being held by Lebanese authorities in connection with the April 18 explosion which devastated the embassy building, sources close to the investigation said Friday. The sources said the detainee was a low-level Lebanese employee who was arrested shortly after the explosion. No charges had been brought. Four or five other Lebanese not employed by the embassy were also being detained. Even if their involvement in the blast was proved, they were not the masterminds behind the attack, the sources said. More than 60 people were killed in the blast. Among the dead were 16 American employees of the mission and visiting officials, including a senior analyst of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Robert Clayton Ames.

Bangladesh floods hit 200,000

DHAKA (R) — Floods sweeping southern Bangladesh grew worse Friday, cutting road links between the capital Dhaka and the southern port district of Chittagong, state television reported. It said at least 200,000 people had been hit by flooding in Chittagong and Noakhali districts and the eastern district of Sylhet as heavy rain continued for the third day. About 100,000 people were reported marooned and three dead in Chittagong alone as four rivers burst their banks and flooded Dhaka-Chittagong highway have been washed away. State radio said earlier the country's major rivers, the Ganges, Meghna and Brahmaputra, were also flowing above danger levels.

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Jordan sends tanks to Lebanon

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first shipment of Jordanian tanks requested for by Lebanon during its Defence Minister Isam Khoury's visit to Jordan last April is expected to arrive Beirut Monday, Beirut Radio said. The shipment includes 20 tanks and 15 armoured vehicles, which are part of the originally agreed-upon shipment of 30 tanks and 15 armoured vehicles.

Aden denounces U.S. war games

ADEN (R) — South Yemen has denounced joint military manoeuvres planned this month by the United States and Egypt, calling them provocative and a threat to peace in the region. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday night his country, which had called for the "liquidation" of all foreign military bases in the Middle East, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, "denounces such manoeuvres on the territories of some neighbouring countries."

Pentagon gears up for exercises, page 2

W. Berlin police recapture Lebanese

WEST BERLIN (R) — Ten Lebanese men awaiting deportation from West Berlin escaped from a police cell during the night but seven were quickly recaptured Friday, police said. They broke a window of their communal cell in the Steglitz district and fled across a courtyard and over a fence. All had served prison sentences, nine for drug-dealing offences, and were due to be expelled in a few weeks, a police spokesman said. A search continued for the three men still missing.

TASS supports Upper Volta coup

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, in its first comment on Thursday's coup in Upper Volta, expressed indirect support Friday for Thomas Sankara, the coup's pro-Libyan leader. Referring to Mr. Sankara's dismissal as prime minister in May by President Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo, the official news agency TASS said he had been removed "to the discontent of the servicemen, students and other strata of the population."

Rabat daily urges caution over Libya

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan daily l'Opinion, commenting on talks in Tripoli between Morocco and Libya, said Friday experience had taught Morocco not to be excessively optimistic about Libya's real intentions. The newspaper, published by the Islamist Party led by Foreign Minister Mohammed Boucetta, said it hoped the appointment of a new ambassador to Libya and the visit of a high-ranking government delegation to Tripoli would be a positive step towards the consolidation of Arab ranks and unity. It added: "We hope so, because the experience of the last few years has taught us not to be over-enthusiastic nor to attach too much credit to certain positions taken by Tripoli."

PCC urges unity, talks with Syria

By Lamis K. Andoni and Abdullah Al 'Utum with Agency dispatches

TUNIS — Palestinian leaders meeting here to discuss a rift within their movement Friday called for unity and a renewal of the dialogue with Syria, a spokesman said.

Mohammad Abu Maizer, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, told reporters several delegates had frankly criticised aspects of the organisation of Yasser Arafat's Fatah guerrilla group.

They had urged a better balance within the PLO, of which Mr. Arafat is chairman, he added. But despite the criticisms all speakers on the third day of talks in the 81-member Palestine Central Council (PCC), stressed the need for unity and a resumption of the dialogue with Damascus, he said.

Conference sources said Mr. Arafat, expelled from Damascus six weeks ago amid a continuing dispute with Fatah dissidents contesting his leadership, would wind up the debate later Friday. They said a final communiqué expected to reaffirm the need for unity and a healing of links with Syria would then be issued. Friday's session reviewed a cable sent by deputy commander-in-chief of the Palestinian forces Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), stationed in north Lebanon, who said the Palestinian forces he is in command of the Bekaa Valley are fully committed to Wednesday's call by the PCC for a ceasefire between Arafat loyalists and the rebels. He added that while his forces adhered to the PCC decision to stop media attacks against Syria in order to pave the way for normalisation with Damascus based on strong national grounds, the secessionists have rejected the PCC decision.

Behind the scenes deliberations over the call for a stoppage of media attacks included criticism of statements made by Mr. Arafat's deputy Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), during Friday's sessions in which he attacked the Syrian position. Abu Iyad's remarks were considered by some PCC members as a violation of the earlier adopted decision to refrain from criticising Syria. Fatah Central Committee members justified the statements by pointing out that they were made in a closed session, which rules out its being part of a media campaign.

Iraq says Iranians recaptured garrison

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Friday Iranian troops had recaptured a strategic mountain peak in northern Iraq near the Haj Omran garrison post.

A military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency INA, said Iranian troops occupied the summit of Mount Karmend Thursday night after fierce fighting. But he said Iraqi forces were still holding other peaks and the slopes of Mount Karmend, which Iraq said it recaptured on July 29, six days after Iran launched a cross-border offensive over the Kurdish mountains. Iraq said earlier that its forces Thursday captured "Kordman mountain," 19 kilometres inside Iraq. Kordman and Karmend appeared to be the same peak.

'Frank debate'

The council spokesman said: "The debate was frank and there were a number of criticisms, especially concerning the way Fatah is organised and the need for a more balanced participation of the various components of the revolution in the work of the PLO."

At Thursday night's session Abu Iyad said by Palestinian sources to have accused Mr. Arafat's enemies of seeking to stage a coup. He said they were not inspired by a will for reform. Abu Iyad also second-in-command of Mr. Arafat's own Fatah guerrilla group, told the council that if the rebels wanted to get rid of Mr. Arafat they should do so in a democratic way. If they wanted to strip Mr. Arafat of his powers they must approach the council. If such action were decided on, "it will be in accordance with our democratic traditions, of which we are proud," Abu Iyad was quoted as saying.

He added that PLO leaders remained ready for dialogue with Syria and Libya, said in a statement in Damascus that it remained attached to the PLO and its institutions but was boycotting the Tunis talks in protest at Mr. Arafat's charge that it had interfered in the dispute within Fatah.

Palestinian officials said the meeting itself, attended by virtually every top Palestinian leader except Ahmad Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), was proof of the Palestinian movement's unity.

The PFLP-GC, which is backed by Syria and Libya, said in a statement in Damascus that it remained attached to the PLO and its institutions but was boycotting the Tunis talks in protest at Mr. Arafat's charge that it had interfered in the dispute within Fatah.

State Department spokesman John Hughes later repeated that the resolution was "an impractical demand."



SPECULATIVE WATCH: A soldier of the multinational peace-keeping force in Beirut Thursday watch an Israeli military convoy rumbling by, kindling speculations that Israeli forces are preparing for a planned partial withdrawal from Beirut to more secure positions in the south (A.P. wirephoto)

Tripoli car bomb kills 19

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — A car bomb exploded as worshippers streamed out of a mosque after noon prayers Friday and up to 20 people were reported killed, many of them young children caught as they played in the street.

Almost half of the Harezi Al Baqar mosque was destroyed, houses, fronts brought down and cars left blazing wrecks. "I was inside the mosque when it went off and flying glass fell on us," one eyewitness, his voice still shaking, told state-run Beirut Radio.

"We saw dead people on the ground — believe me, I counted seven or eight, many of them were worshippers."

Beirut Radio said 19 people were confirmed killed and 30 wounded but other reports put the toll higher. Rescuers said they were still pulling people, some badly mutilated, from the rubble five hours after the blast.

The attack, on the Muslim holy day of the week when the devout attended noon prayers, raised tension in this north Lebanese port to a new height.

Armed men from rival militias went onto the streets and firing could be heard from various parts of the city. Security officials estimated the bomb, planted in a blue saloon car, contained 75 kilograms of high explosive detonated by remote control. It went off in the hillside slum of Kubbeh, a stronghold for gunmen of the Islamic Unification Movement, one of the toughest of the city's many warring militias.

When Syrian troops pulled out of Kubbeh as part of a surprise partial withdrawal from Tripoli on July 28, the green and black banners of the movement soon fluttered over the abandoned positions. The group, whose allegiance has shifted with the sands of Tripoli's murky politics, is believed to be generally pro-Syrian while recruiting Palestinian support. Palestinian guerrillas occupy positions in the large Baddawi refugee camp just outside the city. Leftist militias opposed to the movement meanwhile occupied an old crusader castle which dominates the city.

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Bani Hassan reaffirm full loyalty to Hussein

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Bani Hassan, one of the biggest bedouin tribes in Jordan, have reaffirmed their full loyalty to His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and pledged to continue full cooperation with the government over a land dispute in the north-east of the country.

In a statement signed by 40 chiefs of the Bani Hassan tribe Wednesday, they denounced attempts by certain "quarters" to manipulate a trivial incident that took place near Zarqa late last Ramadan. The statement did not specify who the quarters were, but the accusation pointed at Syria which tried to put tensions through repeated media broadcasts against Jordan.

The statement said: "As some parties have tried to manipulate this trivial incident between the members of the one family, and turn it into a subject of controversy by incorporating it into differences prevailing in the Arab region through statements and radio stations, giving the issue names and false orientations, we find this an opportunity to express our loyalty to our leader King Hussein, and our adherence to the integrity of our loyal family and deep-rooted Arab morals. We express our respect for all those trusted by the King among our countrymen, confident that the great Jordanian people will realise the value of security and stability we enjoy, which has been an asset envied by all."

Proclaiming their loyalty to King Hussein and the Jordanian government, the statement said, "As we regret the incident, in which no single drop of Jordanian blood was shed, we believe that King Hussein will preserve the rights Khalileh and Zawahreh tribes of Bani Hassan in their land, as he has always been a live embodiment of justice and wisdom, and everyone knows the extent of his concern for the preservation and protection of his people's rights." The Khalileh and Zawahreh are two branches of the bigger Bani Hassan tribe who were directly involved in the land dispute.

The statement followed Syrian claims that there were clashes between the Bani Hassan tribe and the Jordanian security forces in Zarqa and Mafrak during the final days of Ramadan. Jordanian officials denied these claims which arose after the removal of some buildings which were constructed on state-owned land in a few places in the Zarqa area. Bani Hassan claim the land in question historically belongs to them, and the incident they mentioned in their statement presumably refers to a reported clash in which members of the tribe tried to stop security forces from fencing in the disputed land.

The tribal chieftains ended their statement by saying: "We are certain that the reign of law will prevail, and following the directives and example of King Hussein, we will always remain the homeland's strong fence, and the loyal soldiers of the Great Arab Revolt."

The statement was signed by Yassam Al-Titan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, and by Abdullah Akhoun Reishedah, who is a National Consultative Council (NCC) member, among others of the Bani Hassan notables.

French guns arrive in Chad, page 2

Shultz names new aide for Middle Eastern affairs

WASHINGTON (Agencies) Secretary of State George Shultz named a new assistant for Middle Eastern affairs Thursday but said the change represented no switch in U.S. policy for the region.

Mr. Shultz announced that the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Nicholas Veliotis, wanted "to go on to something else" and President Reagan would nominate Richard Murphy, now ambassador to Saudi Arabia, to replace him.

Mr. Shultz said Mr. Veliotis would be named ambassador to Egypt, replacing Roy Atherton, who would return to Washington. The nominations are subject to Senate confirmation.

Mr. Shultz told reporters that the staff changes did not mean a change in U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Mr. Murphy, who in 1973 became the first U.S. ambassador to Syria after the break in relations between the two countries stemming from the 1967 Middle East war, will come to his new post at a time when Syria presents the most important immediate roadblock to U.S. policies in the Middle East.

Abdul Ati Obeidi met the Soviet ambassador to Libya in Tripoli Friday morning. It did not name the envoy.

The Soviet Union is Libya's major weapons supplier. The United States announced Thursday it was stepping up aid to help the Chad government of President Hissene Habre fight off Libyan-backed rebels. Chad is also receiving American shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles.

The agency, in a dispatch received in Beirut, said Foreign Liaison Secretary (Foreign Minister) French guns arrive in Chad, page 2

Libya briefs Soviets on American 'threats'

BEIRUT (R) — Libya briefed the Soviet Union Friday on "American threats and provocations against the Libyan People," the official news agency JANA reported.

In an apparent reference to the war in Chad, JANA said: "The Soviet Union is being put in the picture because of the importance of the matter, which might spill over the area and endanger world peace and security."

The agency, in a dispatch received in Beirut, said Foreign Liaison Secretary (Foreign Minister) French guns arrive in Chad, page 2

Andropov says arms talks practically at standstill

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Yuri Andropov met Portuguese Communist Party leader Alvaro Cunhal Friday and told him he considered disarmament talks with the U.S. in Geneva had come practically to a standstill. TASS news agency reported.

Mr. Cunhal is visiting Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee. "The Geneva talks are practically at a standstill and the peoples of Europe find themselves confronted with a very dangerous situation, threatening their peaceful life and their future," TASS quoted Mr. Andropov as saying. The Kremlin has repeatedly said it will take "decisive measures" should failure to agree at Geneva result in the deployment, as planned, of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe.

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French guns arrive in Chad

N'DJAMENA (R) — A first consignment of French anti-aircraft weapons arrived in N'djamena as the government accused Libya of extending its air raids and of dropping bombs containing phosphorus on civilian targets.

French sources in N'djamena said fresh arms supplies were delivered to Chad on Wednesday but declined to disclose their nature. Local military sources said they were mainly anti-aircraft weapons. France agreed to supply earlier this week in response to Libya's alleged air attacks.

Information Minister Soumaila Mahamat said Thursday air attacks were no longer restricted to Faya-Largeau but that new targets included Oum-Chalouba and Kalau, small towns in the northeast that Chad government troops retaken three weeks ago.

He denied a Libyan news agency statement that they had fallen back into rebel hands. Libya has repeatedly denied that its air force is involved but Western diplomatic sources in N'djamena said there was overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Mr. Mahamat charged that Libyan MiG-21s and MiG-23s as well as helicopter gunships had dropped tonnes of bombs on Faya-Largeau since the oasis town was retaken on Saturday by troops loyal to President Hissene Habre.

Medical sources confirmed government claims that bombs with phosphorus were used on Faya-Largeau.

A French nurse working in a N'djamena hospital told Reuters she had treated people evacuated from the northern front who bore the distinctive burn marks of that type of bomb. One had his eyes burnt out, she said.

Mr. Mahamat issued another urgent plea to France to provide air cover to stop Libya from continuing the alleged air raids. France has so far said it will stick to the letter of a 1976 military con-

operation agreement barring outright intervention.

Mr. Mahamat said government troops were holding on to their positions in Kalait and Oum-Chalouba, 250 kilometres east of Faya-Largeau but that heavy air raids made their situation difficult.

Mr. Mahamat told reporters the rebels were apparently trying to make their way back to Abeche, a strategic eastern town recaptured by government forces in mid-July.

Meanwhile, a Reuters correspondent reported seeing in N'djamena Friday a government minister the Libyan news agency JANA said had been captured by the rebels at Oum-Chalouba.

According to the agency, Public Works Minister Hassan Djamous had confirmed that President Hissene Habre died in Faya-Largeau.

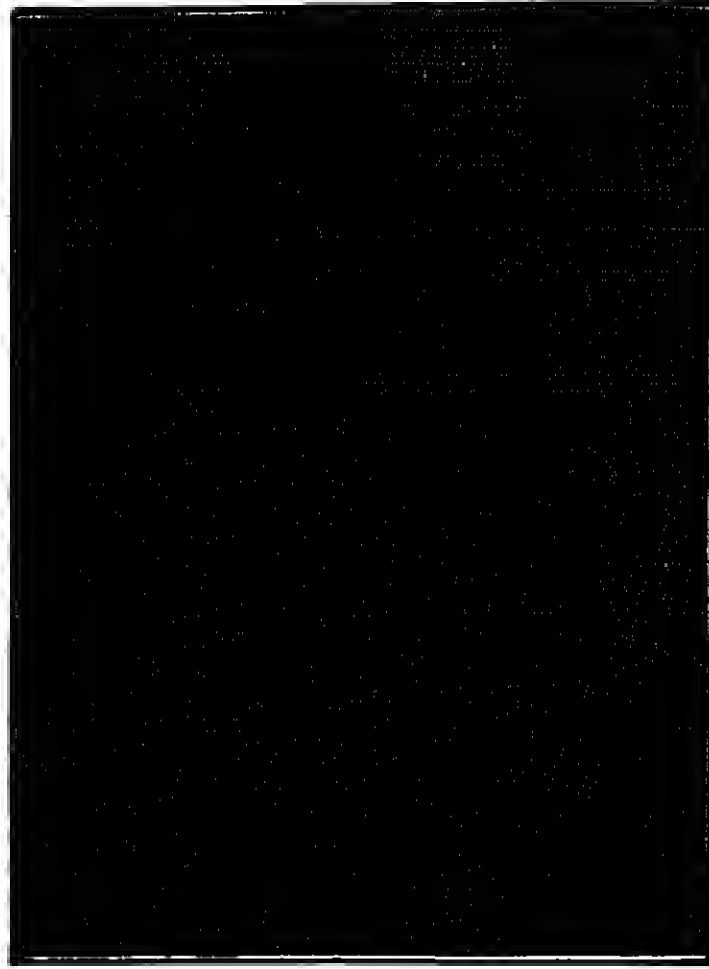
A top government official dismissed the report saying, "no government minister is reported missing."

Mr. Habre has been away from N'djamena for over a week and government sources said he was leading his troops somewhere on the northern front.

U.S. boosts aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration, gravely concerned about the broadening conflict in Chad, has more than doubled U.S. aid to help the government of President Hissene Habre fight off a Libyan-backed insurgency.

U.S. officials said Thursday an extra \$15 million, on top of \$11 million already pledged, was needed urgently because of what it called the "radically altered situation" resulting from large-scale Libyan bombing raids.



The bullet-sprayed facade of the N'djamena cathedral (A.P. wirephoto)

No details were given of the extra aid, which State Department officials said would be used to provide the Chadian government with "a reasonable chance to defend itself against Libyan escalation."

The announcement was made after Chad had received American shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles to help government forces fight off the reported Libyan plane attacks. The missiles were part of the original \$11 million in aid, of which three-quarters had been

expended, officials said.

President Reagan Thursday praised Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko for his "courageous action" in sending up to 1,000 troops to Chad, plus six aircraft, to free Chadians from the rebels.

The United States has sent about 30 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles to Chad, together with three trainers to provide instruction on their use. France also has sent anti-aircraft weapons but Paris has not responded to Mr. Habre's appeal for air support.

Pentagon gears up for Mideast exercises

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon said about 2,000 U.S. troops will take part in joint exercises with Somalia starting next week, almost three times as many as in last year's manoeuvres.

The Somali exercise is one of four separate manoeuvres in which U.S. forces are taking part this month.

Advance ground parties and some aircraft, including two Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft, are already in the region to prepare for exercises with Egypt, Sudan and Oman, as well as the Somali manoeuvres.

Defence officials said the Somali exercises, code-named "Eastern Wind," would include a Marine amphibious landing near Berbera and training operations by the aircraft carrier Carl Vinson in the Indian Ocean.

Last year's Somali exercises, which also included a Marine landing, involved about 1,000 troops, the officials said.

Officials said the four exercises would be led by the central command, the former Rapid Deployment Force formed to protect U.S. security interests in the region.

About 5,500 U.S. troops will take part in the Egyptian exercises, code-named "Bright Star," and about 850 troops in the Sudan exercises, called "Natural Bond."

Military sources said exercises also would be held with Oman, but they would probably not be announced publicly because of Omani sensitivities over being linked too closely with the United States.

Arms in Alexandria

CAIRO (R) — Heavy equipments and arms to be used by 5,500 American troops in U.S.-Egyptian military exercises, next week, were being unloaded from a U.S. ship Friday, eyewitnesses said.

The ship, the Callahan, docked at a naval base in Alexandria and was being unloaded under tight security, they said.

U.S. and Egyptian officials at a joint press office set up in a Cairo hotel for the exercises refused to comment.

One Egyptian official there said the news blackout on the movement of troops and equipment would continue until the war exercises began.

Tanks for Lebanon

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon has notified Congress that it planned to sell Lebanon 64 tanks with spare parts and ammunition for \$64 million.

It said the sale of M48-A5 tanks would be part of the Reagan administration's effort to help the Lebanese government maintain security.

The tanks, an improved model of those used by the U.S. army in the Korean War, would be enough to equip two battalions.

Greece, Cyprus perceive more Western support for reunification

ATHENS (R) — Greece and Cyprus said Friday the West appeared to be shifting toward support of Cypriot demands for reunification and the withdrawal of Turkish troops.

Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou, starting a two-week visit to Greece, met Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu to review recent developments on Cyprus.

Mr. Papandreu, whose country is currently president of the 11-nation European Community, told reporters after the meeting:

"A change of climate is appearing among the Westerners. In Western Europe, and this, plus the fact we have the presidency, means that very probably — we

can't be absolutely sure — the Community itself will take a clear stand on the Cyprus issue."

In May, the U.N. General Assembly approved by 103 votes to five a toughly-worded resolution calling for the withdrawal of Turkish troops who have occupied northern Cyprus since Turkey's 1974 invasion.

Non-aligned and Eastern bloc countries backed the motion but the U.S. and all Community members except Greece, Ireland and France abstained.

Mr. Kyprianou, who had talks last month with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said Friday:

"We discern an improvement in the international climate generally, and within the West as well.

with regard to the Cyprus problem."

Informed sources say U.S. officials see a link between the Cyprus issue and Greek-U.S. talks on American bases in Greece, concluded successfully last month.

They say that success may prompt Washington, seen by diplomats as a key in the Cyprus situation, to take a more sympathetic stance towards Nicosia's aspirations.

Mr. Papandreu earlier this week described as very positive a statement by Mrs. Thatcher that Britain was firmly opposed to the division of Cyprus.

He condemned moves by the Turkish Cypriot leadership in the north of the island towards declaring an independent state.

British army deserter allegedly planned to assassinate Maltese prime minister

VALLETTA (R) — An Algerian told a magistrate's court Thursday that a 20-year-old British army deserter had planned to kill Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff as he left his office in Valletta.

Anthony Price of Venthyr Tydfil, South Wales, who was arrested on April 13, has been charged with conspiring to subvert the government of Malta by taking up arms with others to compel the government to change its policies. He pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Algerian Danyal Banuya told the court that he had acted as interpreter between a Tunisian, Ben Arous, and Price while the three were in the immigration section of the prison.

Banuya said Price told him that

while serving with the British army in Germany "persons" whom he did not identify had contacted him and asked him to shoot Mr. Mintoff. A German woman was to have brought arms and money to Malta. Price offered to help Arabs escape from jail after which they would live in the flat of the Tunisian girlfriend.

They were also to steal a helicopter and fly out to give the impression that they had left the island but were to return at a low altitude to deceive radar. The shooting was to take place then and the three were to steal a boat and leave Malta.

First stop would be Italy from where Price was to have made his way to France to join the foreign legion.

The Maltese police have described Price as a sharpshooter and a follower of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Price was picked up by Maltese police in April because he had no means of subsistence. On June 20, a magistrate ordered his immediate release on the grounds that he had been detained for 65 days without being charged. On June 27 he was remanded in custody.

Price denied he had come to Malta to kill Mr. Mintoff. On descending from the British army he came to Malta because he said the island was the last place where the army would look for him.

He denied in a statement Banuya's story that he planned to kill Mr. Mintoff.

Turkey fines British artist

ANKARA (R) — A British artist, arrested last month with his Greek girlfriend for boating illegally in Turkish waters, was fined Friday instead of serving a 20-month jail sentence, Greek officials here said.

Trevor Simeons, 42, who lives in Rome, was sentenced to jail Thursday by a court in the southern resort of Kas for illegal fishing.

He was seized on July 17 with 14-year-old son and two of his children during a fishing trip in a small boat from the nearby Greek island of Kastellorizo, the officials said.

They were freed on bail shortly afterwards and charged with entering Turkey illegally and Mr. Simeons faced the additional charge of illegal fishing.

Greek officials said the Kas court decided Friday to commute the jail term into a fine, which they did not specify. They said the group would be returned to the island within 24 hours.

Arab League denounces 'provocative' U.S. actions

Numeiri attacks League

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League has denounced what it called provocative actions by the United States against Libya, as well as its use of the veto to block a United Nations resolution on Israel.

The 21-member League's secretary said in a statement: "The hostile American initiative at the U.N. Security Council is accompanied by another especially serious action."

"The United States has taken the initiative of increasing the tension in the Mediterranean by making provocative actions with their naval and air forces in the direction of the Libyan shores, an action that can only be perceived as a threat against an Arab country, member of the League."

It added that the Arab League "which has always worked for an improvement in Arab-American relations... deeply regrets this policy and warns against the dangers it represents for Arab-American relations."

JEDDAH (R) — Sudanese President Jafar Numeiri "has strongly criticised Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi for failing to convene an Arab summit ahead of a routine session scheduled for November."

In an open letter published in several Arabic newspapers here Thursday, Mr. Numeiri said: "Three months from now can deepen the division and destruction of the Arab World."

"In view of pressing Arab developments, the Palestinian tragedy and the deteriorating Lebanese situation why... do you not summon an emergency Arab summit?"

Asking if Mr. Klibi had been pressured by Syria and Libya to delay a summit, Mr. Numeiri added: "You are obliged to be the voice of the Arab Nation to mobilise itself, regardless of any lack of response in your call from some Arab governments."

Palestinians rap Omani statement about Israel

KUWAIT (R) — Palestinian organisations in Kuwait Friday denounced statements by Youssef Al-Alawi, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he called on the Arabs to make peace with Israel.

A statement issued by the organisations said the call was unprecedented since the signing of the Camp David accords (between Egypt and Israel in 1978).

Mr. Al-Alawi told a press conference in Kuwait on Aug. 2: "We can see now or 15 years later that we must end the state of belligerency with Israel and make peace with it."

"In fact we are in an indirect state of peace with Israel by accepting United Nations resolutions which all call for Israel's existence."

In their statement Friday, the

Palestinian organisations said Mr. Alawi's call comes at a time when the conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution is intensifying and Israeli repressive measures in the Arab occupied territories are increasing.

Iran denounces Oman

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has denounced an Omani call for a joint Arab naval force to guard the Gulf against threats from Iran, calling it part of an American plot to disrupt the region.

Tehran Radio quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikholeslam as saying Iran had always ensured the safety of shipping in the Gulf and would continue to do so, provided that there were no attacks which cut Iran's oil exports.

Jeddah denies blocking Iranian pilgrimage plans

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has denied Iranian charges it was limiting the number of Iranians wishing to perform the holy pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, the official Saudi press agency reported.

The minister of pilgrimage and religious endowments, Abdul-Wahab Abdul-Wassie, told a news conference Thursday Saudi Arabia had not asked Iran to reduce the number of pilgrims it was sending to the holy places this year, the official agency said.

The pilgrimage season begins in September and ends early in October after Eid Al-Adha (feast of sacrifice).

Mr. Abdul-Wassie was also quoted as telling local reporters Thursday night his country had never asked the Iranians to reduce the number of pilgrims bringing in

Iranian pilgrims.

He said 85,000 Iranian pilgrims were expected in Saudi Arabia out of a total of two million prospective pilgrims.

Past problems

Mr. Abdul-Wassie said Iranian pilgrims three years ago had begun to behave in a manner no sovereign state could accept. "The kingdom's sovereignty over its territory, including Mecca and Medina, is unquestionable," he added.

The minister said the Iranians had insisted on holding processions and demonstrations which contradicted Islamic teachings.

Iran has accused Saudi Arabia of limiting the number of Iranian pilgrims and not cooperating in preparations for their reception in the kingdom.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:30	Koran
17:50	Cartoons
18:10	Invaders from Space
18:30	Magnificent Seven
19:00	John Silver
19:20	Local Programme
19:30	Agricultural Programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arab Basketball Championship
20:50	Local Programme
22:10	Amble Play
22:30	News in Arabic
23:10	Play Coochie
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	M.A.S.H.
21:00	Documentary
21:30	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:15	Feature film: The World We Share
23:00	News in Arabic
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 KHz, SW	
07:10	Morning Show
07:30	News Headlines, Sign Off
10:00	News Summary
10:30	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Picnic Time
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instruments
17:00	Jordan Weekly
17:30	Special Feature
18:00	Special Feature
18:05	Special Feature
18:30	Great Books of Islam
19:00	Newsweek
19:30	Top Twenty
20:30	Date with a Star
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Classical Concert
21:55	News Summary
22:00	First Spin
22:05	News Summary
23:00	Country Music
23:05	Country Music
24:00	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz	
06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Kings of Jazz	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267	
American Centre, Tel. 4871	
British Council, Tel. 36147-8	
French Cultural Centre, Tel. 37009	
Goethe Institute, Tel. 41993	
Soviet Cultural Centre, Tel. 44205	
Spanish Cultural Centre, Tel. 34049	
Turkish Cultural Centre, Tel. 39777	
Haya Arts Centre, Tel. 665195	
Husseini Youth City, Tel. 607181	
Y.W.C.A., Tel. 41793	
Y.W.M.C.A., Tel. 694251	
Amman Municipal Library, Tel. 36111	
University of Jordan Library, Tel. 843555	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club, Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club, Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club, Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.	
Rotary Club, Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 3.00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Amman, Tel. 24590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic), Jabel Amman, Tel. 37440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Hussein, 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox), Abdali, 25541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer), Jabel Al Qal'a (Chapel Hill), Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. 11 Fridays and official holidays 11.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Chapel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. 11 Fridays and official holidays 11.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 301128.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabel Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 301128.	
Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:30 (Sunrise) Shajar	
11:42 Dhuhur	
15:23 'Asr	
18:20 Maghrib	
20:02 Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alta Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. 1081 33250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
06:55	Cairo (EA)
08:45	Cairo (RJ)
09:05	Beirut (EA)
09:15	Agaba (RJ)
09:25	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:35	Jeddah (RJ)
09:40	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45	Oman (RJ)
09:50	Kuwait (RJ)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15	Beirut (RJ)
10:35	Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
11:30	Larnaka (Cyprus Air)
13:25	Beirut (EA)
14:30	Karachi (KAC)
16:30	Cairo (EA)
16:35	Copenhagen, Athens (SK)
16:40	Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (LA)
17:15	Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
17:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45	Madrid, Tripoli (RJ)
18:00	Athens (GA)
18:05	Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:05	Rome (Alitalia)
18:20	Cairo (RJ)
19:40	Frankfurt (LH)
19:55	Cairo (EA)
20:15	Beirut (MEA)
20:30	Athens (Olympic)
08:25	Cairo (RJ)
08:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:45	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
07:40	Beirut (EA)
07:55	Cairo (EA)
08:30	Athens (Olympic)
09:05	Beirut (MEA)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:20	Athens (GA)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
12:05	Paris, London (RJ)
12:35	Larnaka (Cyprus Air)
14:25	Cairo (EA)
16:40	Kuwait (KAC)
17:30	Baghdad (LA)
18:20	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat (GA)
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Lowlight temperature in deg.C	
Amman	20/23
Agaba	25/41
Deserta	22/38
Jordan Valley	24/39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Agaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent, Agaba 18 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193, 75111
Firstaid, fire, police	199
Blood bank	75121
Civil defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	220913
Police rescue	192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters	39141
Traffic police	56390-1
Electric Power Co.	36381-2
Municipal water service	71125-8
Queo Alla lot, Airport	(08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre	81381-332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman	44201-4
Abdali Maternity, J. Amman	4241
Jabal Amman Maternity	42362
Malhas, J. Amman	36140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	849845
Dr. Ali-Shila, J. Hussein	667158
Al-Manshar Hospital	667227-0
The Islamic, Abdali	665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664146
Italian, Al-Muhajra	77111-3
Al-Basair, J. Amman	75111
Army, Marka	91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Sawhneh 79997

Dr. Mahmood Khalil Omran ... 73172

Al Salam pharmacy (24 hrs.)	367391
Al Hikmah pharmacy	36571
Al Mahata pharmacy	55453
Al Shakhshir pharmacy	669495
Al Jarfar pharmacy	72679

Rainbow taxi	37249
Khasem taxi	43620
Ambassador taxi	66641
Karnak taxi	664761
Nahda taxi	663913

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih	R6432
Al Hawawer pharmacy	1-1

IRBID:

Dr. Awwar Al Shboul	262473681
Al Razi pharmacy	3041

GENERAL

Jordan Television	73111
Radio Jordan	74111
Ministry of Tourism	42331
Hotel complaints	666412
Police complaints	661176
Telephone information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	111
Overseas calls	17
Cable or telegram	18
Republ service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/more price in Jls per kg

Apple (American)	300 / 450
Apple (Smith)	300 / 450
Apple (local)	160 / 120
Apricots	300 / 250
Banana	270 / 220
Bananas (Mukammur)	230 / 200
Beans	240 / 200
Cabbage	110 / 80
Carrot	150 / 120
Cauliflower (white)	270 / 240
Cherries	750 / 650
Corn	150 / 120
Cucumber (large)	140 / 150
Cucumber (small)	270 / 220
Eggplant (large)	90 / 50
Eggplant (small)	130 / 100
Falouts	140 / 100
Garlic	150 / 100
Grapes	350 / 300

Lemon	220 / 180
Leonon (yellow)	340 / 300
Mango (large)	190 / 120
Marrow (small)	200 / 160
Mallow	70 / 40
Melon	50 / 50
Melon (super)	120 / 90
Onion (dry)	170 / 140
Potatoes	130 / 130
Oranges	250 / 200
Peaches	400 / 350
Pear	450 / 400
Pepper (Sweet)	200 / 150
Pepper (Hot Green)	230 / 190
Plum (red)	200 / 160
Potatoes	150 / 120
Radish	130 / 130
Tomatoes	130 / 90
Watermelon	90 / 70

Health council regulates trainee doctors pay, conditions of employment

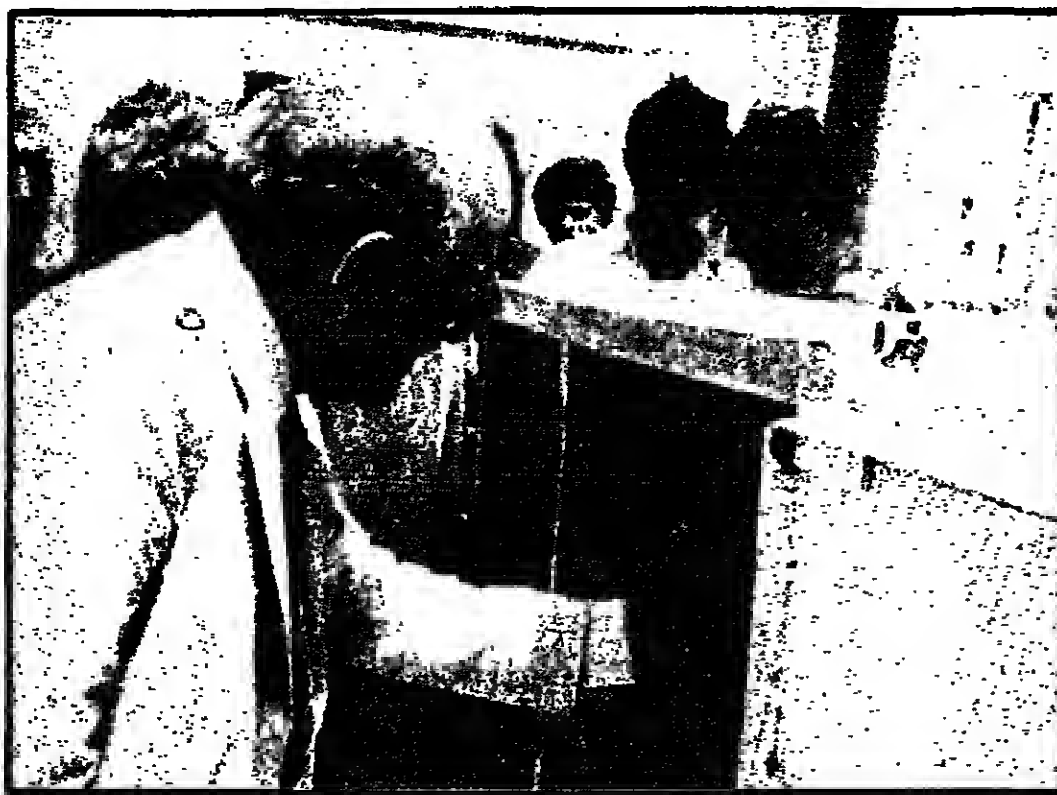
AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Health Council held a meeting Friday at the directorate of Royal Medical Services to discuss the distribution of trainee doctors in private hospitals.

A report by the committee studying the issue was discussed by the council which decided to order the appointment of one trainee doctor to each eight hospital beds, and that the salary of a doctor trainee should not be less than JD 70 a month.

The council, which was chaired by Minister of Health Dr. Zuhair Mahas, also decided to prepare a job description for such doctors to be circulated to all hospitals.

The council is also to hold a meeting next week to discuss a report by the Higher Committee on Nursing on the nursing situation in Jordan. It will also discuss an emergency service plan, and a proposal to bring in an exam for physiotherapy graduates, as well as studying a questionnaire about the number of students studying medicine both at home and abroad.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Education, the President of the National Planning Council, under-secretary at the Minister of Health, the director of the Royal Medical Service, the director of the Social Security Corporation, the director of the Environment at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and the president of the Jordanian Medical Association.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday inaugurates a new electrification project in Mafrak District which will bring electric power to four villages in northern badia (Petra photo)

Government to lift ban on new artesian wells

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday inaugurated an electrification project which will bring power to four villages in the Mafrak District. The scheme is part of the government's comprehensive drive to provide water and electricity services for all citizens throughout Jordan.

In his inauguration speech, Mr. Badran conveyed to the area's citizens the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein, and expressed his satisfaction and that of his cabinet ministers on being able to talk personally with the citizens of the northern badia (desert) area.

Mr. Badran said the electrification of Sahab and Subhiyah, Sah' Assir, Amrah and Amireh, and Um Al-Jmal will pave the way for a major shift in the lifestyle of the people of the area. He added that the government will study

carefully all requests presented by the area's citizens to find a satisfactory solution to problems facing them.

Mr. Badran stressed that the government will lift the ban on digging artesian wells for agricultural purposes in the Mafrak district in the next six months, before next winter. He said that the ban would be lifted because the Irbid Governorate is now receiving the bulk of its water from the Wadi Al Arab wells which have a capacity of 20,000,000

cubic metres. Artesian wells in Mafrak can therefore be drilled without affecting the governorate's main source of water.

The prime minister said that responsibility for public works in the Mafrak District will be shifted away from central government to the jurisdiction of the Irbid Governorate Public Works Department to speed up maintenance work.

Mr. Badran was accompanied on his northern badia tour by the Ministers of Agriculture, Public Works, Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment, Interior and heads of related departments.

They were received at the inauguration site by the governor of Irbid, the governor of the Mafrak District, district consultative council members and a number of elders and dignitaries from the northern badia.

Armouti: Jerash festival will be most colourful in all Arab World

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jerash Festival Committee Chairman Mazin Al Armouti Thursday held a press conference at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office during which he spoke about the final preparations for the festival due to open on Aug. 12.

Mr. Armouti said the second Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts will be "the richest and most colourful in the Arab World." He added that it will represent a unique opportunity for us to form a cultural bridge between Jordan and with its Arab identity and the people of the world.

He added that the festival has been financed through contributions by several institutions, the most generous of which have

been Yarmouk University which has contributed JD 10,000; Jordan Television with JD 14,000 in return for the opportunity to shoot a documentary film of the occasion; the Jordanian Armed Forces, and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. The Jordanian government also offered a loan of JD 150,000 for the festival.

Dr. Armouti said the festival programme included folk dancing, exhibitions, poetry recitals, concerts, plays, formative arts, handicrafts, books, photographs and films. The programme also includes performances by musical, folk and theatrical groups from 17 Arab and foreign countries with a total of 800 participants.

Fifty buses have been hired to act as a transport service during the festival in cooperation with the Public Transport Corporation.

Mr. Armouti pointed out.

He added that a special parking area, two kilometres from the main festival site, has also been allocated. A festival press service has been organised to include three press centres: one at festival quarters, the other two at the Regency and Melia Jerusalem hotels, Mr. Armouti concluded.

Dr. Armouti added that Jerash was chosen for the festival not only for its archaeological and touristic importance, but also for its geographic location, being in the middle of the kingdom.

He also added that the theatre facilities which Jerash has are indispensable.

Dr. Armouti said that he thought the idea of the festival and the quality of its acts would grow so as to make the festival a thoroughly international one.

Hussein condoles families

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid Thursday deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in presenting His Majesty's condolences to Bakhit and Mu'asher family on the death of Salma Al Mu'asher, the widow of the late Salim Al Bakhit.

Sahab rents reduced by up to 33 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Sahab Industrial Estate (SIE) has decided to reduce the annual rent on its buildings by between 20 to 33 per cent, in compliance with instructions issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, during his recent visit to the estate. The new reductions per square metre are as follows: Rents on plots with facilities laid on from JD 1 1/2 - JD 1: rents on factory buildings grade A from JD 11 - JD 8; buildings grade B from JD 10 - JD 8 1/2; buildings grade C from JD 11 - JD 9; buildings grade D JD 11 1/2 - 9 1/2; buildings grade E from JD 12 1/2 - 12; stores from JD 8 1/2 - JD 8; shops from JD 40 - JD 30; and administrative offices from JD 30 - JD 25.

The SIE is expected to have a capacity of 170 light industrial factory units by 1985 according to SIE Director-General Dr. Fayez Suheimat.

Mufti cables conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti, sent a cable of good wishes to the international conference of professional women's clubs being held in Washington. In her cable, Mrs. Mufti wished the conference

success in their efforts to guarantee women's rights and enable them to serve their society equally with men.

A Jordanian delegation of professional women is taking part in the conference.

Ajloun postal, telephone service expansion almost complete, says district governor

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Dr. Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben Friday presided over a meeting of the executive committee for the expansion of telecommunications services in Ajloun and its environs.

The meeting was attended by committee chairman, Ajloun District Governor Abdul Halim Al Awwad and Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Assistant Director-General Walid Dweik.

Mr. Awwad said the ministry and the TCC have set up 90 per cent of the postal and telephone services proposed in the Ajloun-meeting working paper. He added that this was the result of great efforts and that Mr. Zaben had



Dr. Mohammad Al Zaben

personally followed up its implementation. Mr. Awwad pointed out that the residents of the Ajloun district had already benefited from the increased number of telephone lines and that the service to other parts of Jordan has improved considerably.

Mr. Dweik said the Kufranjah manual telephone switchboard has now been replaced by a semi-automatic one, and, as of the end of last July, all Kufranjah subscribers have been linked to the new 1101-line switchboard.

Mr. Dweik added that the town of Anjarah has been connected by an additional line with Ajloun, and a new semi-automatic switchboard system will start operating in Anjarah from Saturday.

UNRWA opens Beqa'a child health care centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new maternal and child health care centre was opened recently in the Beqa'a refugee camp, according to United Nations Relief and Works Agency sources.

The centre will provide a fully integrated health service for children up to the age of five, including out-patient and preventive and curative medicine, sources said.

The construction of the centre was financed by an \$82,500 donation from the Norwegian Refugee Council.



The new maternal and child health care centre recently opened in the Beqa'a refugee camp (UNRWA photo)

Prizewinning students see through the Hollywood image of the Arab World

By Salameh B. Nehmat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three American university students, who were on a friendship tour to Jordan, have left Amman Friday after a successful tour of the Middle East. During their visit, they have met university officials and students in Jordan, Syria and Tunisia.

Their visit was sponsored by the Arab Women's Council (AWC) in Washington D.C. as a part of the council's activities in promoting the Arab image and improving American understanding of the Middle East conflict.

Chairperson of the AWC, Dr. Najat Khalil, who accompanied the students on the tour, said in an interview with the Jordan Times that her council organised an essay competition in three states — Iowa, Nebraska and North Dakota — and the winners of this competition were awarded this trip to the Middle East.

The visiting team, which consisted of Dr. Khalil and the three students, were also accompanied by their three sponsoring teachers and were hosted by the University of Jordan. Transportation was provided by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Dr. Khalil said the Arab Women's Council was established on June 17, 1982 — 12 days after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The council has 200 active members with the main aim of changing the image portrayed by "Hollywood" of the Arab people, she added.

Going in that direction, we have organised this essay contest called "The Arab-Israeli conflict: A solution", she said. The three winners of this essay were Mr. Russell Crone of Iowa, Mr. Douglas Weems of Nebraska and Miss Jeanne Steiner of North Dakota. Mr. Crone began his essay by writing that after the 1973 war, two women stood outside the Israeli embassy in Washington. "The Arab woman," he wrote, "held a sign on which read, I am a Palestinian Arab — I was born in Jerusalem; Palestine is my homeland — but I cannot return there."

The Jewish woman's sign read, "I am an American Jew — I was born in the USA — Israel is not my homeland — but I can return there."

This is how Mr. Russell Crone, one of the three U.S. students started his essay, as an example of the injustice which he believes exists in the Middle East today.

Mr. Russell said in an interview that public opinion in the U.S. has mainly supported Jewish claims to Arab lands for the past 20 years. Much of this, view has been influenced by the media and government's foreign policy towards the Middle East, he said.

The solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict according to Mr. Crone is not easy to achieve for Israel will only be satisfied with playing the commanding role in the region. But for the Palestinians, the ideal solution would be for Israel to surrender all of the territories occupied including the whole of Palestine.

However, he said, because of the basic strong world support for the existence of Israel and also because of Israel's military superiority, this is not feasible.

The only reasonable solution that Mr. Crone sees is to negotiate a compromise between Palestinians and Israelis. Before any negotiating sessions take place, he said, it must be made very clear that both sides must be willing to "equally sacrifice" in order to make any progress in the talks.

Once the negotiations are underway, the issue which first must be tackled, is the world-wide acceptance of the PLO, Mr. Crone said. It is absurd, he said, that the U.S. or any other nation should want another, more moderate country, such as Jordan, to represent the PLO at the talks. Why should Jordan or any other country represent the Palestinians in negotiations which will decide the future of Palestine? "Once acceptance of the PLO is achieved, real progress can be made," he said.



The three American students, Russell Crone from Iowa, Jeanne Steiner from North Dakota and Douglas Weems from Nebraska, who visited Jordan.

Syria and Tunisia as part of their essay prize awarded by the Arab Women's Council.

In conclusion Mr. Crone believes that the situation in the Middle East is not beyond a solution if the obstacles that have stood in the way of the solution in the past are removed.

Jeanne Steiner, the other student who wrote an essay on the

same subject, had another solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

The solution, she believes, can be achieved by the recognition of the Palestinians' right to exist by Israel, and the recognition of Israel by the Palestinians. A call for

an end to arms sales to Israel, the PLO, and surrounding Arab nations to prevent a military build up is then prescribed and a return to the 1967 borders.

The establishment of an independent, autonomous Palestinian state in Gaza, West Bank,

Golan Heights, and East Jerusalem, with free access between the areas will then have been created, she said.

A division of Jerusalem into east and west with each capital on its respective side, and a demilitarisation of the city would aid a solution, she said. She also wanted an end to Jewish settlements in the proposed Palestinian state and the breaking up of the present ones. Finally, she proposed that all refugees have the choice to return to their homes, or receive compensation instead.

A compromise, she said, is needed on both sides to assure the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the "continuation of a Jewish homeland," he concluded.

Doug Weems, the third winner of the essay contest, has his own version of a solution scenario for the Middle East conflict.

According to Mr. Weems, it is an oversimplification to say that if there was no Israel, there would be no problem. The amount of truth in this statement, he said, does not matter, because Israel will not go away. "Four wars and countless incidents have proven that. Neither will the Palestinians go away. They have a right to live in peace, just as the Israelis do."

Any solution, he said, must take into account that neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians will give up and relinquish their claims to Palestine.

There should be no reason why the Jews and Muslims can't live in peace, he added, for both religions emphasize peace. But neither side seems to want to live that way. To facilitate this, he believes that there are several steps that would help. First of all, a new constitution would have to be drawn up that guarantees basic freedoms to both sides. Each side would, of course have to be represented in this process he stated.

The legislative branch of the government should have two houses. One house would have representation based on population, and the other house would have an equal number of members from both the Jewish and the Arab segments of the population.

Both houses, he said, would have to agree before any new laws could be passed. Other details would have to be worked out between the two parties, he concluded.

The three students, along with their three sponsoring teachers and Dr. Khalil, toured Amman and the Jordan University and were invited to visit the Bak'ah refugee camp.

The students expressed their feelings of gratitude to the Jordanian people and officials for the "good reception" and hoped to visit Jordan again in the future.

Jordan Times

As indicated, the Jordan Times is published in Jordan, and is not to be confused with the Jordanian Times, which is published in the West Bank.

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Don't look to Europe

THE GLOW of success that surrounded United States Middle East peace efforts when Israel and Lebanon signed a withdrawal agreement was short-lived. With the non-cooperation of Syria, and Israel opting for unilateral partial withdrawal, the spectre of Lebanon being cut into pieces has raised its ugly head more ominously than before.

In recent years when Arab-American relations have become deadlocked, the Arabs have turned to Europe as the most promising mediator. Not only is mediation a traditional problem-solving method employed in the Arab World, but also Europe is clearly the only third party with any real influence over America. But can Europe be of any significant help in the present situation?

Although French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson recently took a swing through the area in a trip shrouded in mystery and followed by speculation about possible initiatives by France in Lebanon or an increase in the French contingent of the multinational force there, a consensus of opinion in the European Community is that members can do no more at this time than wait and watch. Although firmly committed to the peacekeeping role they are now playing, the Europeans see themselves as peripheral to the main action, and by no means key actors.

In response to Arab requests that they do something to get foreign troops out of Lebanon, they reply, "Do what?" Here lies Europe's real dilemma. It has no real influence on Israel and hence no way of bringing pressure to bear there. The same is true of its relations with the Arab countries, including Syria. The only card it has to play is greater recognition of the PLO. Mr. Cheysson's meeting with Mr. Yasser Arafat in Tunis may well be a signal that at least some Europeans are ready to play that card now.

Government sources in Europe point to several reasons for the muted level of the current activity of Community members on the Middle East front. First of these is the European perception that the United States must lead the field in proposing and pushing through initiatives for the region. Europe sees its role as second fiddle to America's first. A European initiative without full American backing would go nowhere.

Second and related, America is approaching a presidential election — a time traditionally when incumbent leaders fall back on positions well-proved for vote-getting, and avoid making moves that might be controversial. This means that regardless of who is the next president, no substantial U.S. action on the Middle East can be expected for one-and-a-half or even two years.

A third reason is that with Israel and Syria facing off so directly and dangerously in Lebanon, the other international power that can and should do something constructive at this juncture is the Soviet Union. The USSR does have leverage with Syria where the United States and Europe don't, not least in that Syria is almost totally dependent on Russia for military aid. That the Soviet Union seems to share Syria's pleasure at American and Israeli discomfort at the turn of events in Lebanon is something that Europe can probably do nothing about.

It is frustrating for this region to have to expect so little from the countries we have been so closely tied with from the days of colonialism, but that is the new reality. Europe's big guns are no longer the cannon of the world. If what Europe has to offer for the moment is peacekeeping forces, we should be glad that at least that much can be committed to the efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

— Middle East Times, Cyprus

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Not an internal dispute

THE FATEH "rebels" have declared that they will not regard decisions taken by the Palestine Central Council (PCC) current meeting in Tunis as binding. They state that the PCC is not the right body to consider their secessionist stand or ways to reconcile conflicting factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

To test this argument it is necessary to pose the following questions: "Is the rebels' movement an internal one that only concerns Fateh?" Is it true that the rebels attacked Fateh bases in the Bekaa Valley and occupied Fateh's offices in the Syrian capital? If so, we must pose another question: "Why did the secessionist uprising not take place before the PLO departure from Beirut, particularly when they declare that the democratic policies of the Fateh leadership existed long before the present conflict?"

We know definitely the answers to these questions, and we are positive that the Palestinian and Arab masses know the answer too. The rebel movement did not originate in the structure of Fateh itself, nor was the decision to rebel taken by ordinary Fateh fighters. Regardless of such facts, we hope that the PCC will be able, with the help of all principled Arabs to foil the rebels' plans and preserve Palestinian unity.

Al Dustour: Another blow to Arabs

THE ISRAELI Knesset (parliament) decision to declare Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel in 1980 was met with large-scale indignation and protest throughout the Arab and Islamic World. Warnings against acting in compliance with the decision by diplomatic missions of world states were fruitful, particularly with regard to African and South American states.

During the past three years, Arab prestige at the international level have witnessed harmful setbacks that have weakened Arab credibility in the eyes of world diplomacy. El Salvador Thursday decided to move its diplomatic mission from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in return for the military, financial and technical aid it had received from Israel. Neither Arab threats, nor the lure of oil or petrodollars could hold the Salvadoran government from taking this decision, which harms the feelings of many hundreds of millions of Muslims.

The example of Zaire, which adopted a similar stance, also dented the Arab campaign. No real action has proved Arab threats effective, and the continued flow of American propaganda against the Arabs cannot but result in no consideration being given to the Arab people and their plight. Is it not the Arabs current state of internal conflict that has led them into such a degrading position?

Shaka: Our cause will triumph; we support PLO

In the genuinely democratic municipal election ever held in the West Bank, in 1976, nine years after the Israelis occupied the area, a new generation of younger, more educated men of 'radical' nationalistic ideology replaced the traditional oligarchs who ruled West Bank society. Mr. Bassam Shaka, elected mayor of Nablus, heads the pro-PLO National Guidance Committee and was viewed as the West Bank leader of the "rejectionist front".

Today Mr. Shaka and all but one of the major mayors elected in 1976 have been dismissed from their position. The National Guidance Committee has been outlawed. Yet Mr. Shaka, confined to a wheelchair, and 'unofficially' under town arrest, remains one of the West Bank's most influential leaders.

Mr. Shaka, who had political ties to Syria's Baath Party until 1959, has always been somewhat of a thorn in the side of the Israeli military authorities. One month after taking office, the 'Young Turk' cabled United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim denouncing the occupation, and called for an inquiry commission to visit the area after a 17-year-old Arab girl was shot dead in Palestinian-Israeli riots.

In June 1979 Mr. Shaka led a mass protest against the establishment of Alon Moreh, a Jewish settlement outside Nablus. The demonstration gathered 1,500 West Bankers, and most West Bank and East Jerusalem shops, schools and municipal services shut down.

A few months later Mr. Shaka was jailed and threatened with deportation by the Israeli defence minister, Mr. Ezer Weizman, for allegedly justifying the coastal road massacre of 1978 when 34 Jews were killed and 72 wounded. Twenty-one West Bank mayors threatened to resign if Mr. Shaka was deported. His predicament made the front pages of The New York Times, and even elicited a response from United States President Jimmy Carter.

Released a few weeks later with the deportation order lifted, Mr. Shaka received a hero's welcome upon returning to Nablus. He was showered with rose petals and chants of: "With blood and spirit will we redeem you, o' Bassam."

Bassam Shaka was a national hero, soon to become a martyr.

In June 1980 Mr. Shaka lost the lower part of both his legs when a bomb ripped through his car. The would-be assassins have never been caught, and Mr. Shaka says he has never been officially questioned to help in the investigation.

In March 1982, just months after former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon restructured the military government in the territories, appointing Professor Menachem Milson in charge of the new 'civilian administration', Mr. Shaka and two other car-bomb victims were dismissed from their municipal duties.

Today, Mr. Shaka's mood is angry. His rejectionist views have not softened, and he maintains an optimistic belief that the Palestinian cause will win in the end.

He was interviewed recently for the Cyprus-based Middle East Times at his home in Nablus by Jennifer Frey.

Q: Mr. Shaka, could you tell us briefly how you came to be mayor of Nablus, and why you were removed from that position?

A: I didn't have any desire to be mayor, but our citizens pushed

and pressured me. The previous mayors also looked to me to head a united list. So I headed the list in the 1976 elections, and eight of our ten men were elected. We tried to work through local

and international law, but from the beginning the Israeli military authorities were determined to make civilian administration a fact — against our public determination. They made much propaganda inside the occupied territories to divide us, and tried to force us to accept relations with the civilian administrator, Menachem Milson. They tried to give us some political duties which went against our people, against international and local laws and only served the occupation. We are Palestinians. They wanted us to act as soldiers, to keep the security for their interest as occupiers and to accept their aggressive policy.

We were elected by people who respect the unity of Palestinians and refuse autonomy and civilian administration. So we must also refuse.

Finally, we were dismissed on the grounds that we refused to meet with Professor Milson, refused autonomy, and continued to support the ousted municipal council of El Bireh. They said I was a PLO activist, always encouraging the people to oppose their policy.

What they say is reason for their side, but not reason for the side of justice.

Q: How did the bombing of your car and your accompanying injury change your political life and your attitude towards Israel and Israelis?

A: After they took my legs, I told them: 'Now I'm closer to the land'.

When an enemy wants to kill me, I cannot let them. I am still Palestinian, still Arab, and must defend my human and national rights. My determination became stronger, and support for me grew.

After they didn't succeed in killing me they tried to kill my public relations. Every moment I am guarded, 'for my security', they say. A jeep of soldiers sits outside my house and investigates my friends. Sometimes they forbid me to go to the Casbah, walk behind me on the street, and beat citizens who say hello to me.

Q: Mr. Shaka, you are often referred to as one of the most 'radical' Palestinian mayors. How did you acquire that image, and do you feel it is accurate?

A: It is not accurate. As a citizen, I'm behind the PLO like anyone else, but among the Palestinians, there is no extreme or moderate. We all want our land and our human rights.

I tell them, if you want someone to stop crying, stop beating him. The Zionists take our land, our water, electricity and rights; but they're not extreme — we are!

Every day our problems get deeper and deeper. Our world should forget the propaganda and learn the facts. He who takes land by force is the aggressor. He who is determined to struggle for justice is in the right.

Q: Following Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the military defeat of PLO forces there, do West Bankers express the same level of support for the PLO as before, or are they looking for alternatives?

A: West Bankers support the PLO more than before the war. We are in the same battle for Palestinian rights as before. We're suffering the same problems, and

we're looking toward the same future. For those reasons we still support the PLO.

Q: Of all the peace plans on the table, which do you pin your hopes on, and which do most West Bankers feel is most likely to bring peace to the area?

A: Almost all of us in the West Bank believe in the Fez plan. But where is it now? The Arab countries have forgotten it! They have been silent.

Until now there has been an Arab, a Russian and an American peace initiative, but we don't pin our hopes on any one plan or any one leader. We look towards an international peace initiative. What happened to the proposed Geneva conference? The Americans, interested in forming a strategic U.S.-Israeli relationship, took Sadat away from the Arab fold and stopped the world initiative with the Camp David accord.

Only an international determination for peace can bring about a change in the area.

Q: Yasser Arafat was widely thought to be in favour of allowing King Hussein to negotiate alongside Palestinians with Israel. Was Mr. Arafat supported here in this issue?

A: We have a relationship with Jordan. We're Palestinians. We're part of the Arab World. It's not strange for us to hold discussions with Jordan and to look towards an Arab initiative for peace and unity in the area.

Q: Syria is the last frontline Arab state to maintain a very hostile stand toward Israel. How do Palestinians here view Syria today?

A: We stand together with Syria now in their rejection of the Phalange-Israeli-U.S. agreement. And I say 'Phalange', not 'Lebanese'. What peace can it bring?

The Lebanese government opted for American activities without considering the rights of the Lebanese people, and disregarding international interests.

They took Egypt, now they want to take Lebanon.

We're only sorry that Syria stands alone against the agreement. All the Arab states should unite with Syria to condemn the aggression.

Q: Israel is pursuing an aggressive settlement policy with the stated aim of placing 100,000 Jewish settlers in the occupied territories by 1985-87. Can they meet that goal? And do the recent events in Hebron point to an escalation in settlement activity?

A: They already achieved this goal years ago. They make us and the rest of the world forget that East Jerusalem and many suburbs of Jerusalem belonged to the Arabs. If statistics were to include these areas, they have over 100,000 in the territories now.

Hebron was just another step in their plan — the annexation of all lands and cities. They already took

most of the land, so now they want the cities. They began with Jerusalem, then moved into Hebron. The next step might be to settle inside Nablus, Ramallah, El Bireh and Jenin.

They begin by surrounding all the cities with settlements, then continue to settle inside and displace the Arab mayors, replacing them with Israelis.

Q: A small but vocal group of Israelis belonging to the Peace Now Movement and the Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit have been protesting against the Jewish settlement in Hebron. What kind of impact do they have now, or might they exert on Israeli society in the future?

A: Inside Israel there are democratic groups, human groups who recognise the rights of the Palestinians and are ready to make peace. Many times in the past they have supported us and the problems we face. What they are doing in Hebron is very good. But they need more strength and more unity.

Four hundred thousand demonstrated against the massacre at Sabra and Shatila, but how many continued the struggle? For example, the Labourites only did it for political propaganda against the Likud; they are not unified towards the same goal.

Those who really want peace must fight because the official channels in Israel are now very closed. It's not easy for democratic groups. They face the same struggles we face.

Hatred is growing in the young in Israel and if the aggressive official policy continues, I believe they will begin to kill the peaceful Jews as well. It already happened once this year.

Q: You've been painting a very grim picture of the current situation in the West Bank and in Israel. Do you look to the immediate future with pessimism, or might brighter times be on the horizon somewhere?

A: The U.N. Security Council didn't take a decision on Hebron. The Americans always veto international proposals which speak out against the daily crimes committed against us. The Americans know that the Reagan plan and the U.S.-Phalange-Israeli agreement face great difficulties. There is continual fighting in Lebanon; a split in Fateh; and we face harassment in the towns and at the universities every day.

Our problems are only becoming more difficult.

Q: What prospects do you see for the distant future? Can there ever be peace in the region?

A: We're not against the Jews. The Palestinians always believed we can live together, and have lived together before.

I always believe the future will bring good results for the Palestinians because history follows the side of justice. We're starting from human rights, so we're on the right path.

Human rights anywhere in the world are connected. I can't have my rights if I'm denying yours. Therefore, the world can't afford to be careless about what happens in the area.

In the future we shall have our rights, I believe it. I live it. We're on the right side.

Reagan aides fear no Democratic presidential rival

By Michael Gelb

Reuter

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's top aides say he is in an enviable political position as the 1984 presidential election year draws close and are confident that he can counter any issue raised by the opposition Democrats.

"We have the best campaigner in U.S. politics on our side," one senior White House official said, expressing the optimistic mood.

Everyone concedes political fortunes can change rapidly, but most White House insiders are convinced the president will seek re-election and expect a formal announcement late this year, although informal assurances may come sooner.

Confidence that Mr. Reagan will win is bolstered by what his aides see as a Democratic Party in disarray and an economic outlook even brighter than hoped for just a few months ago.

The one potential cloud on their horizon, the officials say, is the growing crisis in Central America, but they are determined to keep it from "blowing up."

"Historically, Americans have voted according to their views on 'pocketbook' (economic) issues," one senior aide told Reuters.

In the White House view, the preoccupation with economic issues will prevail to Mr. Reagan's advantage in the November 1984 election.

Their euphoria reckons without a damaging political backlash that Mr. Reagan could face from such major voting groups as women and blacks, both of which are now being mobilised by Democrats to cast ballots in unprecedented numbers next year.

Still, the White House sees economic recovery as its trump card:

"When people ask what the top issues are going to be," one aide said, "we say 'the economy, the economy, the economy'."

The economic roller-coaster ridden by the United States since Mr. Reagan took office illustrates the problem the Democrats face in finding an issue on which to beat him.

At the end of 1982, the country was in one of its worst economic declines since the great depression of the 1930s with 12 million Americans out of work and the jobless rate at a 40-year high of 10.8 per cent of the population.

The Democrats forsook an easy campaign against "Reaganomics" and the ghost of Herbert Hoover, the last ultra-conservative Republican president, who presided over the onset of the depression, but this year the economy has rebounded sharply.

Unemployment is falling, although still very high at 10 per cent and double-digit inflation, which partly finished former President Jimmy Carter in 1980, is all but banished from memory.

"As far as the economy is concerned, Mr. Reagan's sitting on top of the world," one adviser asserted.

With the economic issue apparently taken from them many Democrats admit they are groping for a line of attack.

"We don't come off very well" with the public, Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, an underdog candidate for the presidential nomination, told party leaders recently.

"We need a new symbol, new packaging," a White House aide who asked not to be named made a similar comment: "Our overall im-

pression is that the Democrats have yet to find an issue," he said.

"They have had a very difficult time settling on a vision of the future."

Another aide said: "You have to have a devil to beat and they have no devil."

"They tried the briefing books," he said in reference to the declining row over how Mr. Reagan's 1980 campaign staff got Mr. Carter briefing papers. "They tried arms control. Whether they

can make anything out of Central America remains to be seen."

White House strategists also believe that the leading Democratic contenders, former Vice-President Walter Mondale and space hero Senator John Glenn of Ohio, have exploitable flaws.

They see Mr. Mondale as damaged by his association with the unpopular Carter, under whom he served for four years. White House aides also believe they can capitalise on Mr. Mondale's id-

entification with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

A White House public relations effort, aided by promises of flexibility in the U.S. arms control negotiating posture, has so far denied the freeze movement a major victory in Congress and Mr. Reagan aides hope it has neutralised the issue.

But fears Mr. Reagan may be heading for another Vietnam in Central America could revive the war-peace issue, especially among

women — who express far more suspicion of him on this point than men do and greater disapproval of him generally.

Mr. Reagan has also been bedevilled by charges his policies favour the affluent and discriminate against minorities — the so-called "fairness issue."

As a senior White House aide said, "Every time any kind of efficiency is made in a programme, it's represented as taking bread out of the mouth of the hungry."



Why Israel sacked Obeid

Following an outbreak of poisoning incidents in which 900-1500 girls were hospitalised in the West Bank during the first half of April, Dr. Hassan Obeid, head of the West Bank health services was sacked by the Israelis. Deborah Pugh of the London-based Middle East magazine recently interviewed Dr. Obeid and asked him why the Israelis dismissed him.

Q. Have you been given any official reasons for your dismissal by the civil administration of the West Bank?

A. On April 19 I received a letter warning of my dismissal. The employment official in Beit-El told me that I was not doing my job correctly because I was opposing the official line. I did not agree with the mass-hysteria verdict.

Q. What was your evaluation of the situation about a month after the Al-Arabe incident?

A. As I saw it, they were cases of gas poisoning. There were cases of asphyxiation and cyanosis, which are indications of poisoning. Some patients were in states of coma and semi-coma with cyanosis of the face.

There was no eye reaction to light and the pupils were enlarged. Limbs were cyanosed, the hands and the feet were blue. Some were affected more than others. The cyanosis gradually disappeared, in some cases over three days. In Al-Arabe the girls' symptoms came at intervals. They got sick, fainted, screamed and were cyanosed for five to 10 minutes. We gave them oxygen, which improved their condition.

When they woke they were euphoric, they wanted to get out of bed, to walk or play. Sometimes it was up to an hour before the next episode, with each episode lasting 10 minutes.

Q. Did their lips go blue every time?

A. Everytime. The second day it was less, with intermissions lasting two to three hours. The third day, it happened once or twice. Their blood pressure was high during the symptoms and less when they abated.

Q. Might there be a particular type of gas responsible for this?

A. We talked to Rambam Hospital, which has one of the best toxicological departments in Israel. The professor who heads it was the first to confirm the possibility of hydrogen sulphide. The chief medical officer warned that, if it was, we would have to treat the patients with oxygen. There was also the possibility of sodium-nitrate treatment, but it was not available. The World Health Organisation and the CDC and the laboratory we invited all found hydrogen sulphide present in the school.

Q. Which laboratory was that?

A. It was an Israeli mobile laboratory, called by the Chief Medical Officer (for Israel).

Q. What about the later incidents?

A. My medical opinion was based on the events in Al-Arabe. When it happened in other places, we were looking for similarities. More people were affected and the symptoms seemed less. I worked with doctors and responsible people in the health services, including toxicologists such as Dr. Schwarz and Dr. Costin in the Israeli Ministry. They agreed that it was probably hydrogen sulphide. We sent some patients to Rambam hospital. The result we received said "suspected exposure to toxic gas".

Q. How soon did tests begin on the environment?

A. Only after three days. In Al-Arabe it happened on March 21. I was in school on the night of the 22nd with my secretary, and the Chief Nurse and the Public Health Officer of Beit-El, Tsila Akar. As we entered we noticed a bad smell.

My secretary said she felt dizzy, with irritation in the nose and lachrymation (tears in the eyes). I felt the same, especially with irritation in the throat. My secretary shut herself in my car and refused to come out as the smell was evened.

rywhere. When we returned to the car we found that she too was suffering throat irritation. It affects the voice.

Q. Do you think that you were suffering from mass hysteria?

A. I don't believe anybody else, you have to believe yourself. When we got back to Ramallah, I sent the Chief Nurse to her home in Jerusalem. She asked for a laboratory to be sent urgently to the school.

Q. And the laboratory came three days after first incidents, and found traces of hydrogen sulphide?

A. Yes.

Q. What about events in Jenin?

A. On March 26, it started in Jenin. I received a call, at about 7 p.m., saying that there were many patients from east Jenin. We didn't notice any smell, but the other doctors who were already there told us there had been a smell when they arrived. One of these was Dr. Nabil Shaikh, senior medical officer in Jenin, who has also been removed from his position.

The smell began after a car passed through. There were cases of asphyxiation.

Q. Were there substantial differences between the two groups of patients?

A. In my opinion, an irritant gas or something causing a smell was

released from a car in Jenin. The people were afraid. They panicked and came to the hospital. I think 90 per cent of the symptoms were psychosomatic. There was cause — the car and the smell — but I don't say there was poison. A smell was enough to cause panic.

Q. What about the third episode in the schools?

A. As we were busy I was not able to go immediately. So we asked what had happened. They told us the same story, of an irritation and a smell, and they came to the hospital.

Q. Were there any more cases?

A. The fourth wave happened in Anabta, Hebron and other places. People were in a panic. The cases were very mild.

In Al-Arabe the symptoms were clearly those of poisoning, in other places it was mostly dizziness with some asphyxiation. But even so I don't believe that these people came to the hospital without cause — it may be fear, irritants, a bad smell.

But even if it was mass hysteria, cases of hysteria have to be admitted to the hospital. Mass hysteria, I believe, is more serious than food or gas poisoning. Poisoning can be treated; mass hysteria is difficult to treat.

— The Middle East magazine



"The symptoms were clearly those of poisoning (Middle East magazine photo)."

China seeks more energy

By David Hall

BEIJING — China's one billion people each use the energy equivalent of 900 kilograms (2,000 pounds) of coal per year, making the nation the world's third largest energy consumer, behind the U.S. and the USSR.

Despite this, China is an energy poor country. This 0.9 tonnes per person is only a quarter of the world average and below the Third World average.

The country hopes to quadruple its industrial and agricultural production by the year 2000, achieving this by "only" doubling its energy production. Its success or failure may provide other developing countries with lessons in how to balance the energy needs of industry and agriculture, of cities and the countryside, and the needs of energy production and conservation.

Today coal provides about half of China's energy, but most of this coal is in the northwest, and there is not enough transport to move it around effectively. Also, the burning of coal is inefficient without large capital investment. Some two million barrels of oil per day account for another 14 per cent of the country's energy, and China is looking for new reserves in the South China Sea.

Natural gas and hydropower provide another 2 per cent each; the nation is planning a large expansion of hydropower in the form of both very large and very small dams.

But much of this is industrial energy. Some 800 million of China's people live in the countryside. Over 80 per cent of the energy these people use comes from "biomass": firewood, animal manures, straw and stalks from crops. In fact every man, woman and child in rural China uses about 800 kilograms (1,760 pounds) of biomass yearly — half of this in the form of agricultural wastes.

"Commercial energy", such as diesel, kerosene and electricity, provide for only 6 per cent of the countryside's energy needs, while local coal pits and small hydro-electricity projects account for the rest.

Today, some 500 million of China's rural people suffer serious fuel shortages for at least 3-5 months of each year; and in the worst-off provinces, 70 per cent of the people lack sufficient fuel for up to half the year.

In China, as elsewhere, it is becoming widely recognised that excessive use of biomass — whether over-cutting forests or removing crop residues and manure from the fields — can cause erosion, desertification, flooding and decreased soil fertility. Such destruction can come very rapidly, but rehabilitation can be a long



Rural technicians construct a "biogas digester", which converts agricultural wastes and dung into methane gas for cooking, heating and lighting (UNEP photo).

and expensive process — often, in fact, impossible.

But it has also become clear that increasing food production is usually easier than increasing biomass production.

Increasing energy can help increase agricultural production. Unless energy can be provided in large amounts in the countryside, the Chinese could suffer both decreasing agricultural production and a general lowering of living standards.

The question of providing energy for the Chinese people was faced at a recent conference here on "Energy Resources and Environment". The meeting heard policy statements on coal, oil, gas, hydro and nuclear production. Solar, wind, geothermal and biomass energies were also discussed.

Strangely absent from the policy statements was a strong commitment to improving the supply of biomass. This was odd, because China has a reputation for pioneering rural energy self-

sufficiency techniques.

Over the past decade some seven million simple "biogas digesters" (in which microbes convert dung and agricultural wastes into methane gas for cooking and lighting) were distributed in the countryside to provide energy for 30 million people. These can get twice as much energy from dung and 10 times as much from dung than if these fuels were simply burned.

But the biogas programme was rushed, and today about a third of the digesters do not work, mostly as a result of leaks caused by poor construction or maintenance. The Chinese recognise these problems and are seeking ways of correcting them, such as using plastic covers, and are intensively studying both the biology and engineering aspects of biogas production. They also seem to be taking the peasants' needs and views more into account than previously.

The government is also pushing massive national reforestation

programmes and is encouraging the more efficient use of firewood, by such simple techniques as the use of stoves rather than stone fireplaces. Ways of increasing production — village woodlots, energy plantation and agro-forestry schemes (mixing crops and trees) — will also require more government money and backing.

But this will do little good as long as "energy" means coal and oil to government planners in the capital. This approach emphasises industry, at the expense of the 800 million people to whom "energy" means wood, stalks and manure.

And unless government energy planners can find ways of producing more biomass in the countryside, not only could China's rural development hopes be dashed, but its agriculture could falter as well.

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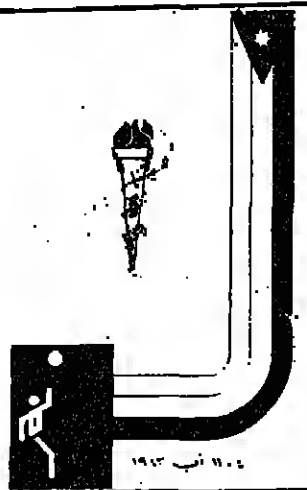
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SPORTS



Jordan defeats Somalia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Thursday night beat Somalia 82-60 in the Fifth Arab Basketball Championships opening match, under the patronage of Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'n Abu Nawar at the Sports City's Sports Palace.

The opening ceremony had taken place at five o'clock in the afternoon when participating Arab teams from nine countries paraded in the Palace hall, followed by a performance by some local troupes of Jordanian folklore dances.

Soviet, U.S. women clash for world basketball title

SAO PAULO (R) — Perennial rivals the Soviet Union and the United States meet Saturday to decide the ninth women's world basketball title with the stage set for a furious battle.

The all-conquering Soviets, five times champions, forfeited their title four years ago by refusing to play in South Korea where the eighth championships were held.

In their absence the American women won. Face to face again in Sao Paulo, the two titans of women's basketball swept aside all opposition to set up Saturday's showdown in the final.

Their first encounter last Saturday was a dramatic struggle with the Soviet Union winning 85-84 when a last second American shot bounced off the basket-rim and fell outside.

The U.S. women started the finals shakily, needing extra time to defeat China in their opening match. But they improved steadily during their seven games, showing vast reserves of skill over the other teams.

The Soviet women were impressive throughout, confidently winning all their games. The star of the side is 2.10 metre Ulyana Semenyova, tallest player in the

Helsinki's Olympic stadium will make more history on Sunday

HELSINKI (R) — Helsinki's Olympic stadium, the venue for a host of sparkling athletics performances over the past 31 years, will witness further history on Sunday when the first World Championships begin.

The eight-day championships bring together more than 2,000 athletes from 158 countries, a third more than the greatest number of nations ever to take part in an Olympic Games, in Munich in 1972.

It is also the first full meeting of the world's top athletes since the Munich games. Political boycotts meant many of the world's leading athletes missed the 1976 and 1980 Olympics, giving this year's inaugural World Championships an extra competitive edge.

Appropriately Finland, with its proud athletics history and tradition of passionate support for the sport, has been chosen to host the championships, which will be held every four years.

The stadium was built for the cancelled 1940 Olympics and eventually used for the 1952

games, which will be forever remembered for the performances of legendary Czechoslovak long-distance runner Emil Zatopek.

Zatopek, who ran with his face contorted as if he were in mortal agony, won a unique treble in the 5,000 metres, 10,000 and marathon to enter the realm of sporting immortals.

Zatopek and his wife Dana will be guests here and should certainly witness performances every bit as compelling as his unforgettable 1952 triumphs.

One man who may dominate his events as irresistibly as Zatopek is 22-year-old U.S. sprinter and long jumper Carl Lewis.

Lewis heads an American sprint contingent determined to reassert U.S. supremacy after the disappointment of missing the 1980 Moscow Olympics when his country stayed away because of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The explosive American, who has inevitably been compared with his great compatriot Jesse Owens, is clear favourite for the 100 metres and could even conceivably beat Bob Beamon's

world long jump record of 8.90 metres set in the thin air of Mexico City in the 1968 Olympics.

Beamon's jump was an astonishing but freakish leap whereas Lewis has been steadily building to a peak this year with a best of 8.79 metres.

The United States, the Soviet Union and East Germany have entered the largest teams and should dominate the medal rankings.

But of far more interest to the spectators here, and the millions throughout the world who will be closely following the competition on television, will be the individual duels.

One of the most thrilling should be the 1,500 metres, one of the game's glamour events, where competition will be fierce and even bruising as the world's leading runners jostle for position.

Olympic champion Sebastian Coe was not selected for the 1,500 and has since withdrawn from the games altogether. But his British rival Steve Ovett, the Olympic 3,000 metres titleholder and 1,500 metres world record holder, will be running.

So too will another of Britain's current rich crop of middle-distance runners, European and Commonwealth Champion Steve Cram, along with American Steve Scott and the lean Moroccan Said Aouita, the world's fastest this year.

The decathlon seems certain to be a two-man battle between Britain's Olympic, European and Commonwealth Champion Daley Thompson and the man who took the world record off him this year, West Germany's Juergen Hingsen.

But there is a question mark over Thompson's form because of a groin injury which has restricted him this year.

The women's high jump will also feature a two-way clash between West German Ulrike Meyfarth and the Soviet Union's Tamara Bykova, whose 2.03 metres last March at the European Indoor Championships is a centimetre higher than Meyfarth's outdoor mark.

American football comes to London

LONDON (R) — Even Wembley stadium has never seen anything like it in a 60-year history of events which includes the 1948 Olympics, the 1966 World Soccer Cup final, and such diverse sports as speedway, rugby league, boxing, hockey, showjumping and hurling.

Saturday's Global Cup contest between the Minnesota Vikings and the St. Louis Cardinals may be billed as a football match—but try telling that to the battle-hardened veterans of the terraces.

The Yanks are coming to London, bringing their own brand of football with them for the first time, and the only thing local fans will recognise are the familiar portable hot-dog and Hamburger stalls along the Wembley way.

Gridiron football has a small but passionate television following in Britain where over four million television viewers watched last year's Superbowl live at 102.34 local time.

But few can explain why they enjoy it. To Britons, American football is a mysterious war game in which human giants don layers of protective body armour—then use their helmets, shoulder, thigh and knee pads and chest protectors as weapons.

In British football, where the violence is usually conducted on

the terraces, the weaponry consists of heavy boots and bare knuckles.

Spectators have also been known to stage pitch invasions on occasions but with the likes of six foot seven inch, 262-pound Cardinals' star Art Plunkett parolling the hallowed Wembley turf, fans would be well advised to stay off the grass.

The Vikings can expect to have the backing of the crowd. Not that many will have any idea where Minnesota is... but any team which boasts the nickname of "the purple people eaters" will capture the imagination of the typical English football spectator.

It has cost the promoters over £1 million (\$1.5 million) to stage the game but with prices ranging from £5-50 (\$7.50-75) a crowd of around only 30,000 is expected in the 80,000 capacity stadium.

Those who do turn up, however, can look forward to an exciting and colourful spectacle.

Certainly, Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney and Kevin Keegan would hardly recognise Wembley stadium.

The soccer goal posts have made way for the American rugby-style equivalent, there is a huge red, white and blue National Football League (NFL) emblem where the centre spot used to be.

Tambay shows old form in Hockenheim practice

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Patrick Tambay of France, showing his old Hockenheim form, took a convincing lead in first practice here on Friday for Sunday's West German Formula One Grand Prix.

Tambay, last year's winner here, took his Ferrari round in a sensational one minute 49.328 seconds at an average speed of 223.814 kph.

Teammate Rene Arnoux turned the session into a Ferrari domination. Both Ferraris were quicker than 1:50, leaving Andrea de Cesaris of Italy in third place, about one and a half seconds adrift of Tambay.

Track conditions were ideal, allowing the super-fast turbo-charged cars to take the first 11 places.

Audis strengthen lead in Argentine Motor Rally

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Sweden's Stig Blomqvist defied torrential rain and Patagonia's muddy roads to consolidate his lead in the second stage of the Argentine Motor Rally.

The downpour turned the dirt roads into treacherous, slippery tracks but Blomqvist's four-wheel drive Audi Quattro revelled in the conditions.

After Thursday's 713 km stage from the provincial capital of Neuquen to the ski resort of San Carlos de Bariloche, four works Audis continued to dominate the event with Blomqvist leading veteran Finn Hannu Mikkola by one minute eight seconds.

Frenchwoman Michele Mouton and Kenyan ace Shekhar Mehta were third and fourth respectively but more than five and six minutes back.

Blomqvist has led from the start of the four-day World Championship event. He won two of the four timed sections with Mikkola and Italian Adriano Panzeri in a Lancia winning one apiece.

But the testing conditions did not suit local hero Ruben di Palma. His Audi Quattro left the road and hit a tree but both he and his co-driver escaped unhurt.

On Friday the 80 cars still in the race leave on a 660-km stage around Bariloche.

Spencer could secure title in Swedish Grand Prix

ANDERSTORP, Sweden (R) — American Freddie Spencer could secure the World Motorcycle Championship in his first full season here on Sunday by winning the Swedish 500cc Grand Prix.

Spencer, a 21-year-old from Louisiana who lives up to his nickname "Fast Freddie", leads the championship from his more experienced compatriot Kenny Roberts by just two points.

And with only two events left, a victory worth 15 points would push Spencer into an unassailable lead—assuming Roberts finishes out of the points rankings.

But that is unlikely to happen. Roberts, seeking his fourth World Championship, is in brilliant form having won five Grand Prix in recent weeks to cut back Spencer's early season lead.

And the 31-year-old, who landed the title between 1978 and 1981, wants to win the championship once more before retiring.

Roberts pushed Spencer into second place at last week's British event at Silverstone in a race marked by the deaths of two riders.

Spencer steered his Honda to victory in the opening three races of the season and won two of the next four to open an impressive lead in the standings.

But if he is unable to secure the crown on Sunday, all will hinge on the final round of the championship at San Marino on September 4.

Spencer clocked one minute 42.62 seconds on Friday, the fastest

test time in practice, with Italian Marco Lucchinelli half-a-second behind on 1:43.29.

Roberts was three seconds further back in 1:45.57.

Randy Mamola, a third American at the top of the 500cc standings, finished behind his two countrymen at Silverstone to retain his third place overall on 79 points.

But he trails second-placed Roberts by 36 points although he was ahead of him in practice on Friday, recording a fourth fastest time of 1:44.54.

Baseball star arrested for 'fowl' ball

TORONTO (R) — New York Yankees baseball star Dave Winfield is in trouble with the law—over a "fowl ball" which brought down a seagull.

Midway through an American League baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays Thursday night, the outfielder hit and killed the bird as he threw a warmup ball.

After the game, Winfield, who knocked in the winning run in the Yankees' 3-1 victory, was taken away by police and charged with cruelty to animals.

He was released on bail but now faces a maximum \$400 fine and six months in jail if convicted.

Australia's cup hope faces disqualification

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Australia II, which the Americans concede is capable of winning the America's Cup from them this year for the first time in the 132-year-old history of the yachting trophy, faced the threat of disqualification on Friday.

The threat was posed by a claim by the New York Yacht Club, holders of the cup, that the Australian boat's controversial, secrecy-shrouded keel makes it faster than conventional 12 metre yachts and is unfair.

The club disclosed Thursday night that it had asked an international governing body in yacht racing for an immediate ruling on the legality of Australia II's keel.

If the verdict goes against Australian boat's "secret weapon", the crew would either have to pull out of the cup challenge or alter the craft in such way that its speed might be considerably reduced.

Australia II is way out in front in the trials to decide which foreign boat is to challenge the Americans for the cup in a best-of-seven series beginning September 13 and, on current form, there seems little chance of any of the other contenders catching up.

The final place in the semi-finals of the challengers' series was filled Friday by Canada I when it beat the Italian yacht Azzurra by 39 seconds.

The Canadian boat's victory meant elimination for another Australian boat, challenge 12.

Disqualification of Australia II would be unprecedented in the history of the event which dates back to August 1851, when the

cup was won by the schooner America. The Americans have defeated every challenge since then.

In a letter to the keel boat technical committee of the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU) in London, the New York Yacht Club says that Australia II is faster than more conventional 12 metre yachts and quite likely would beat the Americans for the cup.

But the letter, written by James Michael, a member of the New York club's America's Cup Committee, maintained that the keel was either illegal or unfairly rated under the rules of the International 12 metre class.

The keel that has been the target of so much controversy incorporates wing-shape fins that project horizontally from the bottom of the boat.

Though the Australians have been light-fingered about the advantages, the keel is reported to add stability to Australia II and give it exceptional upwind speed. The New York club has concluded that the keel adds immeasurably to the boat's speed and gives it an unfair advantage.

The call for a top-level ruling on its legality was prompted by an apparent change of heart by Mark Vinbury, American member of the three-man group which approved the keel when it was measured early in June.

The other members of this group were Anthony Watts, the chief measurer for the IYRU, and Jack Savage, a representative of the Sydney Yacht Squadron in Australia.

Vinbury said in a letter to Watts: "I have no doubt that our

committee measured Australia II's keel according to the rule. I am concerned, however, that the rule as it is currently written is notable to access the unusual shape of this keel and thereby rate the yacht fairly."

A leading U.S. naval architect, Halsey Herreshoff, joined in the controversy by supplying the New York club with seven pages of technical matter in support of its claim.

And Halsey, who is navigator for the yacht Liberty, the boat most likely to defend the cup for the U.S. this year, also admitted that the Americans were likely to lose the trophy to Australia II as things stood.

Herreshoff said in one paragraph of his seven-page memo to Michael: "If the closely guarded, peculiar keel design of Australia II is allowed to remain in competition or is allowed to continue to be raced without penalty, the yacht will likely win the foreign trials and will likely win the America's Cup in September, 1983."

Michael attached the memo to his letter to the International Yacht Racing Union and said it was being submitted as an exhibit.

Herreshoff also criticised the Australians for keeping their keel wrapped in secrecy. "Over the 132-year history of the cup," he said, "there is no precedent for anything like the... oddness of Australia II's keel."

On Thursday night in Newport the syndicate backing Australia II made it clear they had no intention either of pulling out of the contest or changing the shape of Australia II.

Alan Bond, chairman of the syndicate, said he was not con-

cerned over the New York club's latest move. "We don't think they have any foundation," he said. "We're racing under international rules and not rules set up for the benefit of one club. We're quite satisfied all will be well... we'll continue to race and to do our best."

The dispute over Australia II's keel was matched by tension among other challengers on Friday over who would fill the last semi-final place in the trial series.

The crew of Canada I had to wait almost five hours after the end of their race against Azzurra to find out that they had officially won it and etched the last place in the semi-finals.

Both yachts finished the race with protest flags flying, and a disqualification could have cost the Canadians their semi-final place.

The issue was further complicated by a protest filed by Challenge 12 against Australia II. But the jury eventually ruled in favour of Canada I, which eliminated the need to deal with Challenge 12's protest as Challenge 12 could no longer catch up with Canada I.

Australia II, whose crew shows no sign of being unduly worried by the keel controversy, defeated Challenge 12 by one minute and five seconds and finished the preliminary trials with a record of 36 wins in 41 races.

The standings at the completion of the current series were: Australia II, 19.88 points; Victory #3, 13.44; Azzurra, 12.20; Canada I, 11.72; Challenge 12, 10.60; France 3, 3.12; Advance (Australia), 0.00.

Al-Husseini Youth City
The Golf Club
The Golf Committee of the Hussein Youth City Club invites all those interested in the game of golf to attend a meeting which will be held in the Assembly Hall at 5 p.m. Saturday 6 August, 1983 to discuss matters pertaining to this subject.

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WORLD

Upper Volta coup successful

ABIDJAN (R) — A paratroop captain sympathetic to the Libyan regime has seized power in a coup in Upper Volta, ousting moderate President Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo, and diplomatic sources said 13 people died in the fighting.

Capt. Thomas Sankara, 34, who was sacked as prime minister in May, set up a national revolutionary council after the coup Thursday night and appeared to be firmly in control, informed sources in Ouagadougou said.

The diplomatic sources, contacted in the Upper Volta capital by telephone from Abidjan, added that 15 people were wounded in the coup, including five members of a French family caught in a restaurant as they were leaving a restaurant by car.

Capt. Sankara said in a radio broadcast late Thursday night he had overthrown Mr. Ouédraogo because he represented the interests of "enemies of the people and neo-colonialism."

He told local reporters that Mr. Ouédraogo, a 42-year-old army doctor, had been put under house arrest for his own security.

Automatic gunfire was heard near the presidential palace Thursday night, but informed sources

said the coup appeared to have been carried out with surprising ease.

Some prominent military officers and civilians loyal to Mr. Ouédraogo, including trusted adviser Col. Gabriel Somé Yorian, managed to evade arrest, the sources said.

The gunfire was heard in several districts of the sprawling Upper Volta capital around 21.30 GMT Thursday night, including around the national radio and television building, as well as the gendarmerie (parliamentary police).

Moments later, a first communiqué read on the radio announced the overthrow of Mr. Ouédraogo, who himself seized power in November last year, ousting another military ruler, Col. Saye Zerbo.

The Ouagadougou sources said the situation Friday was tense but quiet. The airport was closed to international traffic.

Thursday night's coup is the

fourth since this impoverished West African nation gained independence from France in 1960.

Mr. Ouédraogo seized power with the avowed aim of ridding the country of corruption but soon a major split became apparent between leftist and moderate elements within his ruling 120-member People's Salvation Council (CSP).

The rift came to a head in early May when Mr. Ouédraogo sacked Capt. Sankara for trying to radicalise the military process and drive Upper Volta into the Libyan sphere of influence.

In June, Mr. Ouédraogo ordered the military back to barracks saying he would stay on to oversee a six-month process aimed at returning the country to civilian rule.

He argued that the armed forces had become too politicised and said the handover would restore a healthy social climate.

The move dashed the hopes of a group of younger officers, including Capt. Sankara, who looked to Libya for inspiration and guidance.

It was Capt. Sankara's close links with the Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Qadhafi, which brought the conflict into the open.

He travelled to Libya shortly

after the November coup and invited Col. Qadhafi to pay a return visit to Mr. Ouédraogo in late April, not bothering to advise Mr. Ouédraogo until shortly before the Libyan leader's plane landed at Ouagadougou Airport, according to reliable sources.

Two weeks later, Capt. Sankara was sacked and placed under arrest along with other left-leaning officers. All were eventually set free in mid-June.

After Thursday night's coup, Capt. Sankara addressed his countrymen on radio and denounced Mr. Ouédraogo and his military as a "group of dubious leaders and other bandits with stripes who have led the population astray and prevented it from joining the victorious revolution."

A national revolutionary council, whose make-up was not announced but is presumably led by Capt. Sankara, has been set up to replace Mr. Ouédraogo's CSP.

The radio asked the population to set up revolutionary defence committees at all levels.

Upper Volta, with a population of 6.9 million, ranks among the world's poorest countries, with an annual per capita income of \$180 and no natural resources.

Shultz details U.S. contingency plans for Honduran war games

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. troops taking part in planned manoeuvres in Central America will defend themselves and withdraw if hostilities erupt, according to Secretary of State George Shultz.

"There is no intent to engage anybody actively. In fact, quite to the contrary," he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday in the White House's latest bid to win support for its controversial Central American policies.

"If a hostile situation develops for some reason or another, our forces will withdraw. They will defend themselves, but they will withdraw," Mr. Shultz said.

Three naval carrier groups are en route to Nicaragua for the military exercises and the first unit of ground forces — which will ultimately total about 5,600 in mid-November — will reach Honduras in a few days, Vice Adm. Tom Bigley told the committee.

During a two-and-a-half-hour appearance before the committee Mr. Shultz said the United States was not seeking to overthrow the Nicaraguan government even though it has accused the ruling Sandinistas of trying to export "Marxism throughout the region."

Mr. Shultz also assured uneasy Senators that the United States

had not promised Honduras that it would defend it militarily if war broke out between Honduras and neighbouring Nicaragua.

The Hondurans "certainly realise we support them but we don't have a commitment or such to let them pull our trigger for them," he said.

Many Democratic critics have suggested that the Republican administration has breached U.S. law by despatching troops to a region they consider a powder keg.

But Mr. Shultz insisted: "Everything we're doing is legal."

Nicaragua secretive

MANAGUA (R) — The Nicaraguan government has withheld press permits for journalists to witness Friday's unloading of a Soviet freighter that President Reagan alleges is bringing arms to the Sandinista regime.

Reporters were told to refer back to the government press centre later Friday but were given no guarantee passes would be issued for entry into the port of Corinto, 150 kilometres north of here, where the Alexander Ulyanov is moored.

President Reagan said last week the ship was carrying military helicopters while Nicaraguan aut-

horities say it is bringing in general cargo, including construction and agricultural equipment.

Commenting on the possibility that journalists might be denied access to the port, Nicaraguan officials said the government had no reason to prove anything to foreign countries, least of all the United States.

In an incident in international waters off Nicaragua's Pacific Coast at the weekend, the Ulyanov was called on to identify its cargo and destination by the USS Lynde McCormick, one of a patrol of U.S. warships currently manoeuvring in the area.

In a subsequent commentary, the Soviet news agency TASS accused Washington of planning to mount a "piratical" blockade of Nicaragua.

Nicaragua meanwhile denounced Washington's refusal to grant a \$7.5 million loan request for the construction of rural schools.

Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman told a Press conference here the request had been outstanding since 1978 but that Nicaragua received word from the U.S. Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) last weekend that it had finally been rejected.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solidarity members form exiles' core

WARSAW (R) — A total of 2,357 opposition activists, mainly members of the banned trade union Solidarity, emigrated from Poland with their families during the martial law period, a government official said in an interview Friday. Gen. Rudolf Rusin, head of the interior ministry passport office, told the weekly newspaper Polityka nearly 6,300 internees and opposition activists applied to leave and the authorities issued 5,727 passports. Many people were unable to leave because Western states did not give them a visa, the general said. Western countries initially refused to take any ex-internees, saying this would effectively condone a policy of expelling unwanted citizens.

Thatcher's surgery complete success

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will probably leave hospital Saturday following an operation that saved the sight of her right eye, her surgeon said Friday. Mrs. Thatcher, 57, ate a good breakfast Friday in her darkened room in a private clinic at Windsor, near London, after surgery on Wednesday to repair a tear in her retina. "She is extremely well," said eye surgeon Richard Packard, who had earlier pronounced the operation a complete success after secret laser beam surgery last Sunday had failed.

Lesotho car bomb aimed at premier

MASERU, Lesotho (R) — A car bomb which exploded in the Lesotho capital Thursday was aimed at Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan and missed him by seconds, a government spokesman said Friday. An investigation had shown that the car in which the bomb was planted was parked on the route taken by the prime minister's convoy as he was being driven to his official residence during the lunch hour, the spokesman said. The investigation had also confirmed that the car was registered in South Africa, he said.

Filipino exile leader postpones return

NEWTON, Massachusetts (R) — Filipino opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr. said he had made a deal with the government of President Ferdinand Marcos not to return to the Philippines until Aug. 21, Mr. Aquino, who had hoped to go home on Friday, said he decided to delay his return after receiving a cable from Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile on Tuesday and speaking with friends in Manila by telephone Thursday. Mr. Aquino, 50, a former senator and main political opponent of President Marcos, said the cable asked him to wait a month before trying to get back to the Philippines.

'Raped' man fails to convince jury

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — A man who claimed he killed a woman in self-defence after she had raped him was found guilty of manslaughter. A lawyer for 25-year-old Clifford Stone said his client had bludgeoned Rosemarie McNeil, 30, to death with a rock out of pure fear and terror after she had raped him and threatened to kill him. Stone had said he was a homosexual at the time of the incident in 1980. But a Superior Court jury in San Diego convicted Stone of manslaughter.

'Preserved' aircraft found in Greenland

COPENHAGEN (R) — A U.S. salvage team has discovered eight U.S. World War II aircraft embedded under 25 metres of ice in Greenland. Danish military sources said Friday. The team located the planes, two B-17 bombers and six P-38 fighters, in a glacier 160 kilometres inland from Angmagssalik on Greenland's east coast. The aircraft made emergency landings on the site in July 1942 after running out of fuel en route from the United States to Europe.

Sri Lankan Tamil party to discuss new legislation

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (R) — Members of Sri Lanka's main minority party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), said Friday they would meet soon to decide their reaction to new legislation effectively banning their party.

The 16 TULF Members of Parliament boycotted an overnight meeting of the 168-seat assembly in Colombo which voted for a ban on separatist parties.

Since 1976, TULF has been campaigning for a separate state for the island's 2.3 million Tamils. Under the constitutional amendment passed by Parliament early Friday, TULF members will have to swear allegiance to a unitary Sri Lankan state.

If they refuse, their party, the

largest opposition group in the assembly, will be outlawed. TULF members said they would meet within the next few days to decide on their future action.

Tamil blockade called off

NEW DELHI (R) — A regional opposition party has called off a rail blockade, planned for Friday in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu to protest against attacks on Tamils in Sri Lanka, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

PTI quoted DMK President M. Karunanidhi as saying the blockade had become unnecessary in view of the central government's suspension of train services.

Nigeria to hold elections

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria Friday began a 24-hour countdown to presidential elections following an impressive show of police strength and an appeal for discipline among its 65 million-strong electorate.

Columns of paramilitary police swept through the capital, Lagos, and other major towns Thursday in an operation to deter trouble-makers from disrupting the poll. Nigeria's first civilian-run election in nearly 20 years.

The bustling capital appeared calm, with a ban on electioneering which will remain in force until the polls close on Saturday evening.

Corrugated iron polling booths were in place on the pavements and the Federal Electoral Commission (FECOM) issued on comprehensive election code.

It warned against offences ranging from the bearing of offensive weapons to decorating the face in a manner calculated to frighten voters.

The electoral commission is organising a series of five polls over the next month to elect state and national administrations as well as a president.

It ended its latest statement with an appeal for moderation.

"Remember that no politician is worth dying for," it said in a reflection of widely-held fears that a heightened atmosphere on election day could set off clashes among supporters of the six competing parties.

President Shehu Shagari of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) returned Thursday to his northern home state of Sokoto.

The authorities have deployed about 150,000 regular and paramilitary police around the country for election duty and although the intense, seven-month campaign has resulted in less violence than expected, soldiers are standing by as a further precaution.

Police hunt 2nd gunman after 7 guests, staff die in foiled Avignon hold-up

AVIGNON, France (R) — Police were Friday questioning a man and searching for a second after an attempted hold-up at a luxury hotel went wrong, ending in an orgy of shooting which left seven dead in this historic southern city.

Police said four guests and three employees were shot dead — the highest death toll in a robbery in France in living memory — when two men armed with a revolver and two nine-mm pistols burst into the four-star Sofitel in the heart of the picturesque tourist centre.

They said the two bandits, who were not masked, ordered the receptionist, a 23-year-old Dutch woman, to take them to the manager's flat. Two guests, alerted by the noise, tried to intervene.

Police said the bandits apparently panicked, grabbing seven people hostage before shooting them in cold blood in three different second-floor rooms.

They then tried to jump to freedom but ran into police. One policeman was slightly injured as he battled to restrain one of the men, but the other managed to escape, police said.

Police sealed off all roads leading out of Avignon and said one of the officers at the hotel had recognised the man as he made his escape from the immediate vicinity. Police said they believed the second attacker was still at large in Avignon.

As experts sifted through the bloodstained rooms in the hotel for forensic evidence, police said the detained man had given his name as Jean Pons, but they believed this to be false.

They said he was French but of North African extraction. Police said they had no doubts that the motive of the attack was robbery. Avignon is packed with foreign tourists, many of whom follow hotel advice and store valuables in hotel safes especially provided.

The dead guests in Avignon identified by police included 50-year-old Jean Andre, French consul in the West German town of Saarbrücken on holiday in Avignon.

The dead hotel staff were Nicole van Buuren from Bergen, in The Netherlands, René van Pool from Amsterdam, and Frenchman Paul Ausinelli.

Gritz presents skull, bones

LOS ANGELES (R) — James (Bo) Gritz, who led a private raid into Laos to search for U.S. prisoners of the Vietnam War, has handed over a skull, bones and other items he believes may belong to missing servicemen. Los Angeles district attorney Robert Philibosian said.

He told a press conference Thursday that the remains would be examined by the Los Angeles county coroner, but added: "We must emphasise we have no positive information these are remains of servicemen."

Mr. Philibosian said Lt. Col. Gritz had declined to attend the press conference.

S. Korea sinks northern 'spy boat'

SEOUL (R) — South Korean aircraft and patrol vessels Friday sank what the defence ministry described as an armed North Korean spy boat near a nuclear power plant in one of the most serious Korean Peninsula incidents in recent years.

General Lee Ki-Baek, joint military chief of staff, said in a statement the bodies of three northern commandos in frogmen's suits had been recovered along with parts of other bodies.

A search was continuing at the scene of the incident about five kilometres off the southeastern South Korean town of Wolsong, site of the nuclear power station.

Gen. Lee said a South Korean coast guard vessel was damaged in an exchange of fire with the spy

boat, but there were no casualties on the southern side.

A guard on shore spotted the boat early Friday and opened fire when it fled, he said, adding that the vessel went down in a joint air-sea operation. There was no indication how big the boat was, how many people were aboard or exactly how it was sunk.

Friday's clash came nine days after the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice on July 27, 1953.

The incident was the most serious at sea since nine North Koreans were killed in June, 1980, when an armed northern vessel was sunk off southwestern South Korea.

Gen. Lee said that, in addition to the human remains, his forces

recovered a rubber boat, an empty frogman's suit, a radio transmitter, machine-gun ammunition, binoculars and bits of military uniforms.

He said the purpose of the spy boat infiltration was to disrupt the holding of such international conferences as the meeting of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), to be held in Seoul in October, by creating unease in the South.

Similar charges were made by President Chun Doo Hwan's government in June when three North Korean infiltrators were shot dead by South Korean forces while trying to cross a river into the South, near the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) separating the two countries.

Greens' attack causes uproar

BONN (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in a telegram to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, expressed outrage Thursday over an incident in which a Greens Party parliamentarian threw blood at a U.S. general.

The attack drew widespread condemnation from other political leaders and newspapers.

Frank Schwalbe-Hoth, a radical Greens deputy in the Hesse State Assembly, poured a bottle of his own blood over Gen. Paul Williams during an official ceremony in honour of U.S. forces in the Hesse capital of Wiesbaden Wednesday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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BID BOLDLY, THEN PLAY WELL

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K 6 5 2
 ♥ Void
 ♦ A 10 9 2
 ♣ A Q 7 5 2

WEST **EAST**
 ♠ A 4 ♠ Q J 10 9
 ♥ A K J 2 ♥ 10 8 7 3
 ♦ Q J 8 6 4 3 ♦ 7
 ♣ 9 ♣ 10 8 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ 8 7 3
 ♥ Q 9 6 5 4
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ K J 6

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 2 ♣
 Dble Pass 3 NT Dble
 Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Ace of ♣.

For a while we will be studying the technique of some of the world's great players. The hands will be from the recent World Olympiad, held in Biarritz, France. Our first hero is Tony Priest, who, with his partner Claude Rodrigue, has been the mainstay of Britain's teams for the past 20 years.

North's double was for penalties, but Friday was not prepared to settle for a non-vulnerable set. Instead, he overbid to game and then proceeded to make it. West's double was predicated on the fact that the suits were going to break badly for declarer.

West led the ace of hearts and shifted to his singleton club. Declarer won in hand and led a low spade. West played low and dummy's king won. Four club winners followed, and West found himself under pressure. He shuffled three diamonds and the jack of hearts, but the writing was on the wall.

West was thrown in lead with the ace of spades. He cleverly exited with a low diamond, in the hope that declarer would carelessly win with dummy's nine and so get his entries tangled. But Priest won the king, cashed the ace and tucked West back on lead with a diamond. The best that West could do was to cash the king of hearts and then present declarer with the queen of hearts and his ninth trick.

ROME (R) — Driving ambition and adroit political manoeuvring have enabled Benedetto (Bettino) Craxi to become, at 49, the first socialist prime minister in the history of the Italian republic.

Mr. Craxi, who was sworn in Thursday by President Sandro Pertini, took over an ailing Socialist Party seven years ago and made it a force to be reckoned with even though it remains only the third largest party in the country.

He achieved this by playing off the two major parties which have traditionally squeezed the socialists—the Christian Democrats to the right and the communists to the left.

General elections on June 26-27 left the socialists, who took just over 11 per cent of the vote, holding an effective balance of power. The Christian Democrats, who slumped to under 33 per cent, were obliged to yield the premiership which they have normally held.

Asked by Mr. Pertini on July 21 to try to form a government, Mr. Craxi showed an easy mastery of the complexities of Italian politics by rapidly negotiating a policy programme and cabinet list for a

new five-party coalition government.

Mr. Craxi, who comes from Milan, has tried to expand the socialists into a vigorous, western-oriented party of anti-communist Social Democrats.

Although he has never held a ministerial post, his success was recognised in an opinion poll last year which listed only the Pope and Fiat chairman Gianni Agnelli as more powerful.

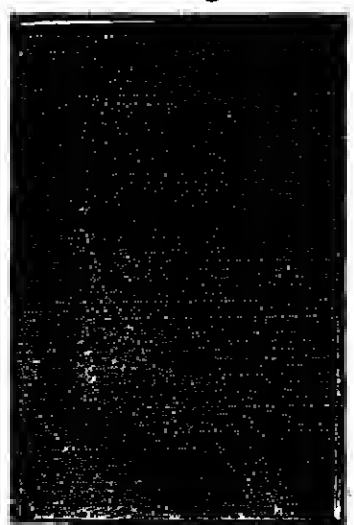
But his attempts to swing his party to the right, and his unceasing personal ambitions, have made him enemies both within and outside his own ranks.

Symbolically, Mr. Craxi abolished the Marxist hammer-and-sickle emblem of his party, replacing it with a red carnation. He himself has tried to cultivate a more international image than the many parochial figures of Italian politics, becoming vice-president of the Socialist International and interesting himself in world affairs from Eastern Europe to South America.

A massive figure standing 1.90 metres tall, chubby-faced, bespectacled and almost bald, he is a natural gift to cartoonists.

A born politician, Mr. Craxi

Crafty Craxi uses smiles and blue jeans to become premier



Bettino Craxi

joined his party's central committee at 23 and became a Member of Parliament for Milan at the age of 34.

He was a disciple of veteran socialist Pietro Nenni, although the party early statesman, recalling that fascist dictator Benito Mussolini was once a socialist, is said to have warned on his deathbed of his authoritarian protégé: "Stop, Craxi."

Mr. Craxi chafed at his party's stagnation in the 1960s and early 70s and was the obvious choice for secretary when Francesco de Martino resigned after the socialists' worst-ever showing in the 1976 elections.

He caused an immediate stir by firing half the party's headquarters staff.

His first major coup was in 1978 when Christian Democratic President Giovanni Leone resigned in a press scandal over his income tax returns.

Mr. Craxi played a major role in securing the election of Sandro Pertini, an elderly socialist who went on to become the most popular president in living memory.

Mr. Pertini returned the compliment a year later by inviting Mr. Craxi to form a government during one of Italy's cyclical political crises. He failed after a 17-day effort but left little doubt that his time would come sooner or later.

Armed with a party conference victory over his own left wing, Mr. Craxi the following year took the socialists into coalition with the Christian Democrats to give Italy its first majority government since 1974.

Mr. Craxi was widely credited,

with bringing down the same government just over a year later, in 1981, by pointedly absencing himself from a crisis meeting called to discuss the scandal of the secret P2 Masonic lodge.

It was Mr. Craxi again who precipitated this year's election by pulling the socialists out of another coalition government led by Christian Democrat Amintore Fanfani.

In both cases, his motive seems to have been to give himself another shot at the premiership, even though, due to a convention that party secretaries do not hold cabinet posts, he has no experience in government.

Mr. Craxi's disputes with the Christian Democrats have not pushed him into alliance with the communists despite communist leader Enrico Berlinguer's calls for a "democratic alternative" of the left.

Although on close terms with France's socialist President François Mitterrand, Mr. Craxi has been discouraged from any French-style Socialist-Communist pact by the knowledge that his party is much smaller than the communists, contrary to the situation in France.